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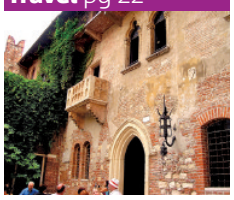
Canada pg 6

Catholic order on defensive

Travel pg 22



5 romantic retreats

Celebrity Buzz pg 29

Ex-Housewife sues over alleged abuse

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Flames

Game over

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

San Jose Shark Logan Couture checks Calgary Flame Mark Giordano during first-period action in Calgary yesterday. The Flames were eliminated from playoff contention following a 2-1 loss and a Colorado win. **More coverage, pages 3, 14 & 15.**

Mother dies in fire

Son, husband sent to hospital after blaze destroys SW home

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

Neighbours watched in horror as a fire gutted a home in the city's southwest early yesterday morning, leaving one woman dead and her husband and son in hospital.

Miles Gillham and his wife were asleep in their Strathcona home around 1 a.m. when they woke to sounds of "hail," but they quickly realized the neighbouring home on Stradbrooke Way SW was engulfed in flames.

"The wife, kids and animals got out and I went outside and grabbed a garden hose to fight the fire, but it was already burning bad," he said, adding the flames were shooting 20 to 30 feet in the air above the home.

"That's when I saw Tom and his son Adam running from the home, but they were in rough shape."

KRISTA SYLVESTER/METRO CALGARY

Crews demolish what's left of a southwest home after a fire destroyed the house and killed a Calgary woman.

Gillham identified the deceased woman in her 50s as Brenda and said she was confined to a wheelchair.

"I used to talk to her over the fence. She liked to spend time on the deck with the flowers and the garden," Gillham said. "They lived here for a long time. It's just so sad. It's a terrible loss."

Fire spokesperson Jeff Budai said the two-alarm fire damaged the home so badly it was demolished by crews on scene later in the morning. Three nearby homes were also extensively damaged.

"Our condolences go out to the family that have lost a member. It's very unfortunate," Budai said.

Budai added that it appeared the fire originated in the rear of the home, but he said crews would continue to investigate the cause.

Early estimates pegged damage at over $1 million.

Albertan killed in another avalanche

B.C. A 41-year-old Alberta snowmobiler has been killed in another avalanche in British Columbia.

RCMP say the victim, from Crossfield, Alta., was snowmobiling Monday night with three companions in Bugaboo provincial park, near Invermere in southeast B.C., when he was caught in the slide.

Staff Sgt. Marko Shehovac said the man was high-marking, or seeing how high up the mountain he could ride, when the snow came down on top of him.

"It's just one of those tragic accidents where high-marking initiated and triggered an avalanche," Shehovac said.

"The one witness at the base camp, his description was that the whole side of the mountain came down."

The man's companions immediately began searching for him and were quickly joined by staff from a nearby heli-ski company. The man was found under about one metre of snow 20 minutes after being buried.

Police haven't yet released the man's name but reports say it was Mark Daniels. Shehovac said the victim is married and has young children.

The latest death brings to 11 the number of people killed in avalanches in B.C. so far this season; the yearly national average is 14.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Local

J.P. Morgan heads west

Wall Street investment banker J.P. Morgan announced yesterday it is opening an office in Calgary. The new office will advise on takeovers and help oil companies raise capital. The move came as oil prices continued to hover near 18-month highs, above $86 US a barrel. Pictured at left is the company's New York City headquarters. METRO CALGARY

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News in brief

FINES During an Easter long weekend crackdown on unsafe drivers, provincial law enforcement officers laid 2,950 charges around Alberta from Thursday to Monday. Among the charges were 2,426 speeding tickets, 83 seat belt violations and 19 child restraint infractions. Officers also charged nine impaired drivers and issued 11 24-hour suspensions.

KILLINGS A judge has ordered a 30-day psychiatric review for an Alberta woman who is accused of killing her two young sons. Allyson McConnell was not present in a Wetaskiwin courtroom when defence lawyer Peter Royal made the request for the assessment.The 31-year-old woman is charged with second-degree murder in the deaths of her 2½-year-old, son, Connor, and his 10-month-old brother Jayden found on Feb.1. METRO CALGARY

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Flames fans keep fire burning

Diehards vow to stay true to team after elimination from playoffs

LAURENCE HEINEN
for Metro Calgary

Despite the bleak news that her beloved Calgary Flames failed to qualify for the playoffs, Janine Jones won't give up on her favourite team.

"I'll still support them," said Jones after the Flames dropped a 2-1 decision at home to the San Jose Sharks last night. "I'll still have my Flames jersey on next year, but I'm feeling sad right now."

While the loss didn't officially eliminate the Flames from the playoffs, they were ousted a short time later when the Colorado Avalanche secured a 4-3 shootout win in Vancouver against the Canucks.

"We just didn't cut it," said Tom Merkley, who joined Jones and three other friends at Jamesons Restaurant and Bar to watch the game. "I'll still be cheering for them next year, of course."

Prior to the contest, Jones still believed that the Flames could string together three straight victories and somehow pass Colorado in the standings.

"I had hope and I thought they'd be up for tonight's game," she said. "They're a lot better than they're playing. They're not doing as good as they should be."

While Jones and her friend Allyson Johns proudly wore their Flames jerseys, none of the other 60 or so patrons at Jamesons showed the same faith. "The Flames have a lot of bandwagon fans," Jones said.

Johns encouraged other Flames fans to find a way to put this season behind them.

"It's our team," she said. "We've got to support them."

LAURENCE HEINEN/FOR METRO CALGARY

After watching San Jose's Rob Blake score in the first period to put the Sharks up 1-0 over their beloved Calgary Flames, Janine Jones, left, and Allyson Johns react with displeasure.

Only 41% proud to work for AHS: Employee study

SURVEY An Alberta Health Services staff survey held between Jan. 27 and Feb. 15 says only 41 per cent who responded are proud to work for the organization.

Chief executive Stephen Duckett yesterday presented the results, which also showed only 29 per cent of respondents are optimistic for the future and 68 per cent said their job provided them satisfaction.

The full results will be released once the video sessions with staff across the province are complete.

Duckett said the timing of the survey could have led to the lower ratings as it was conducted mostly before the province upped health spending by 15 per cent. METRO CALGARY

64th Avenue **Head-on collision**

LAURENCE HEINEN/FOR METRO CALGARY

Paramedics and firefighters work together to extract the driver of a minivan involved in a three-vehicle head-on crash at the intersection of Centre Street North and 64th Avenue just after 3 p.m. yesterday.

Get bowled over at Big Brothers fundraising event

LAURENCE HEINEN
for Metro Calgary

FUNDRAISER There's still time to rack up strikes and spares while raising money for the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Calgary and Area.

The 19th annual Bowl for Kids fundraising event is slated to continue at Chinook Bowladrome and Fairview Bowling and Billiards until April 17.

"Traditionally this is the largest fundraising event for Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Calgary and Area," said event organizer Jeremy Gocal. "The money goes directly to the organization, so it's funding all the programs that they do."

After raising $270,000 last year, organizers hope to bring in $300,000 this year.

The Calgary Stampeders will take part in Friday's event at Chinook while the Calgary Roughnecks are slated to help out next Tuesday.

To register a team, contact Gocal at 403-338-1192 or visit www.bowlforkidscalgary.com.

Following news stories on Twitter...

CalgaryTweets

@BrianaRMH IAnyone got an idea where I can buy a venus fly trap in #yyc?
@Calgary51 the weather in Calgary is +10c how I wish I was back in palm Springs, California.
@sutterlyamazing so many ian white staches popping up in #yyc lmao

What's your number?

Canadian DVD bootlegger dies

A Canadian man who drew international attention as a prolific producer of illegally copied movies has died. His case was considered a landmark because it was believed to be the first time someone had received a jail term in Canada for such a crime. Montrealer Geremi Adam's girlfriend says on his Facebook page that he died Sunday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Lots of cynicism in new poll

Canadians have little confidence in either the Conservatives or Liberals to manage the economy, balance the books or reflect their values, a new poll suggests. Indeed, more Canadians picked "None of the above" and "Don't know" than chose any federal party on those key issues, according to The Canadian Press Harris-Decima survey.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

POLICING RCMP officers who guard Parliament Hill are being equipped with submachine guns to give them more stopping power should a gunman attack the heart of Canada's government. Security, which has already been significantly beefed up after a high-profile breach last December, will get another boost in the coming months when Mounties patrolling the Hill get the Heckler & Koch MP5 submachine gun. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

FIRST NATIONS A study released yesterday suggests the health effects of mercury poisoning at a First Nations reserve in northwestern Ontario are worse now than in the 1970s. But while some environmental groups are calling for tighter guidelines, Premier Dalton McGuinty said he wants to take a good look at the report before deciding whether to act. The report comes via the group Earthroots.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Afghan prisoner probe kept hush-hush

INQUIRY The first two days of a probe into the handover of war prisoners in Afghanistan will be held behind closed doors.

The Military Police Complaints Commission has barred journalists, government officials and the general public from sitting in on its proceedings until Thursday.

The civilian-run military watchdog started its probe yesterday, but procedural wrangling stalled the panel from hearing its first witness.

The hearings were scheduled to resume in the afternoon, but a spokeswoman told reporters during a lunch break they would not be allowed back until Thursday morning.

"They will be behind closed doors for the remainder of today and tomorrow," Nancy-Ann Walker said in an email.

"The witnesses for today and tomorrow will not testify publicly."

The commission is investigating an allegation from Amnesty International Canada and the B.C. Civil Liberties Association.

The groups say Canadian military police did not properly investigate officers responsible for directing the transfer of detainees to Afghan authorities, allegedly at the risk of torture.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

New Chair of the Military Police Complaints Commission, Glenn Stannard, listens as hearings resume related to a complaint about military police conduct in Afghanistan yesterday.

Tighten online security, say researchers

Ottawa must take urgent action on cyberspace security, or risk becoming the next victim of a targeted attack by hackers using social media like Twitter to glean secret government or corporate information, Canadian researchers said yesterday.

The team of researchers from the University of Toronto and Ottawa-based SecDev Group released a report yesterday documenting a complex cyber espionage system of Chinese hackers.

Twitter and email were among the tools used to access highly sensitive documents from the Dalai Lama's offices and national security data from India, they said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

From airport tantrums to mortgage deals, a Tory minister's woes deepen.

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Ontario premier hints at pay freeze for CEOs of government agencies
Dalton McGuinty yesterday, for the first time, raised the possibility of pay freezes for a variety of public workers to help tackle Ontario's $21.3-billion deficit. Elected officials are already facing a three-year pay freeze. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

TRIAL A suspended Mountie charged with stabbing an Ottawa police officer to death has fired his lawyer. The move by Kevin Gregson brought a prompt end to proceedings at an Ottawa courthouse yesterday and sets his trial back indefinitely. Neither Gregson nor his lawyer, Israel Gencher, gave reasons for the dismissal. A preliminary hearing set for Oct. 1 has been cancelled and a remand hearing is scheduled for Monday. Const. Eric Czapnik, 51, died after he was attacked Dec. 29 while sitting in his cruiser outside an Ottawa hospital.
Gregson, 43, is charged with first-degree murder.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Scandal hits home

Overseas claims put Quebec order on defensive

A Roman Catholic order in Quebec is defending its reputation after a former French bishop claimed he was asked to take in one of its priests who was found guilty of sexual abuse in the 1980s.

The one-time bishop of Évreux, Jacques Gaillot, told a Paris newspaper this week he regretted appointing Denis Vadeboncoeur to head a parish in western France, where he was convicted in 2005 of child abuse.

"We were being helpful," Gaillot said in an interview with Le Parisien.

"We were asked to take in an undesirable priest and we agreed."

But Vadeboncoeur's old order in Quebec, the Religieux Saint-Vincent-de-Paul, denies it had anything to do with Vadeboncoeur's career being allowed to continue in France.

They said he went to France on his own initiative in 1987, two years after being given a 20-month sentence in Quebec for sexually assaulting children.

He was originally charged in the province with gross indecency and sexually assaulting several children aged 12 to 17, as well as one count of sodomy.

Upon learning of his new position in France, the order penned a letter in 1987, to inform Gaillot of Vadeboncoeur's past.

"We did what we had to do to inform those who were taking him in (in France), so there wouldn't be any surprises," said Alain Fiset, former head of Saint-Vincent-de-Paul.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Halifax **Running the economy**

MIKE DEMBECK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nova Scotia Finance Minister Graham Steele gave his $9-billion deficit budget address at the provincial legislature in Halifax yesterday, laying out the government's four-year deficit-busting plan. The plan includes raising the province's harmonized sales tax to make it the country's highest at 15 per cent.

China-U.S. thaw good for G20

DIPLOMACY Repositioning by China and the United States over the past few days has vastly improved Canada's chances of holding a successful G20 summit in Toronto in June.

First, China offered last Thursday to join talks on renewing sanctions against Iran. Then, the U.S. announced it would stand down for now on its attempts to brand China a "currency manipulator" — a provocative label that hints at trade sanctions to follow.

Those moves suggest the two powers are taking concrete steps to defuse tensions and instead hash out their significant economic-policy differences under the auspices of the Group of 20 — raising the stakes for the summit in Toronto.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Men not seeking sexual health answers, study says

HEALTH Many young men say that sexual health is a female issue, according to a new study by Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) and the University of B.C.

The report, released yesterday, entitled Evergreen Guys Research Project: Improving Young Men's Health Care, was put together through a combination of nurse-led focus groups, street surveys and individual interviews to determine why so few young men were using health centres around the city.

SEAN KOLENKO / FOR METRO CANADA

News in brief

FLU STUDY A set of controversial studies that disrupted flu vaccination efforts in Canada last fall has finally been published. The then-unpublished studies caused governments to delay offering seasonal flu shots until after they'd distributed the pandemic vaccine. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Schoenborn to stay in custody
Allan Schoenborn, who was found not criminally responsible for killing his three children, will remain in custody, a panel decided yesterday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Haiti loves Jean

Some want to see Canadian GG's term renewed

The capital might be chattering about who will be the next governor general, but Michaëlle Jean's substantial fan club in Haiti would like to see her stay put.

Jean is a beloved figure of success in her country of birth, and has been a high-profile champion of support and assistance for Haiti in the aftermath of January's earthquake.

As Jean opened a two-day conference yesterday on rebuilding the Caribbean nation, Haitian leaders confessed to some chagrin at seeing her term draw to a close this fall.

It's not unusual for a governor general to have his or her mandate extended, but it is widely believed that," said Port-au-Prince Mayor Jean-Yves Jason.

PAWEL DWULIT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Michaëlle Jean is expected to be replaced as governor general soon, much to the chagrin of some in her native Haiti.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is already seeking her successor.

"She has opened a lot of doors for us and she's been our messenger, and we've been taking advantage of

"If the government is listening, I'd tell them to renew the mandate of Michaëlle Jean."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sex-abuse coach could have 150 accusers, Kennedy says

ABUSE Former NHL player Sheldon Kennedy says Graham James could have as many as 150 accusers and more will likely come forward now that a controversial pardon has put the shamed hockey coach back in the spotlight.

James, who coached several junior teams, was granted a pardon from the parole board in 2007 for sexual assaults against two of his former players, including Kennedy. He was sentenced to 3½ years in prison in 1997.

"Back when I charged him and he pleaded guilty, the police figured in their investigation of myself and the other guy who came forward that there was anywhere between 75 and 150 and I would think that's not too far off," said Kennedy.

"I think the way this whole thing has been presented, it's almost re-

"The police figured ... there was anywhere between 75 and 150 (victims) and I would think that's not too far off."
Sheldon Kennedy, former NHL player

sparked that fire within people to say: 'You know what, I need to come forward to make changes.' And not only with Graham.

"Look at the heightened awareness around this pardon stuff."

The James case had faded from the spotlight until last year when former NHL star Theo Fleury wrote a book in which he made allegations that he was abused by his former coach. Winnipeg police launched a fresh investigation.

The Canadian Press learned of James's pardon from another previously unknown accuser who went to Winnipeg police with his story and was told of a possible pardon by investigators.

That accuser, who played for the Fort Garry Blues in Winnipeg, said he had yet to file a formal complaint with police.

But reports suggest several others have also come forward to police recently.

There has been no public comment from James about the allegations, and his current whereabouts are unknown.

Police won't talk about the complaints and no fresh charges have been laid.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oilsands companies still question cleanup deadline

TAILINGS Oilsands companies are still debating with Alberta's energy regulator over cleaning up their toxic tailings ponds even though the deadline for them to start is just over a year away.

A spokesman for the Energy and Resources Conservation Board says the timeline for converting the vast sludge ponds into safer dry tailings is fixed, but oilsands operators say the schedule is still under negotiation.

Pius Rolheiser of Imperial Oil said the company may need "flexibility" in applying new technologies.

But board spokesman Davis Sheremata said the deadlines — agreed upon last February — are "firm, final and non-negotiable."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

DRUG TRIAL A police officer says a girl who would die of an ecstasy overdose was already having difficulty walking when he found her. RCMP Const. Robert Kluz was testifying on the first day of a trial for a 17-year-old youth accused of drug trafficking at a wedding party on a reserve west of Edmonton. Two girls from the Paul First Nation near Stony Plain died in March 2009 when they overdosed on ecstasy and a third girl was hospitalized but survived.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Police: Woman killed cousin over attire

Ohio police say a woman shot and killed her 19-year-old cousin Sunday after an argument over jean shorts and a T-shirt the teen wore to Easter dinner. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Native pioneer dies at 64

Former Cherokee Nation chief Wilma Mankiller, left, one of the few women ever to lead an American Indian tribe, has died of cancer at 64. As chief, she took native issues to the White House and met with three presidents: Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton. She met snide remarks about her surname — a Cherokee military title — with humour, often delivering a straight-faced, "Mankiller is actually a well-earned nickname." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Miner hope remains

WEST VIRGINIA Rescuers held out slim hope yesterday that four missing coal miners might have survived when a mine repeatedly cited for improperly venting methane gas exploded, killing 25 people in America's deadliest underground disaster in a quarter-century.

A day after the blast in southern West Virginia, desperate rescuers began boring into the mine in hopes of releasing poisonous gases so crews could go in search of the men. But Gov. Joe Manchin said it could be today before much progress is made.

"I don't want to give anybody any false hope, but by golly, if I'm on that side of the table, and that's my father or my brother or my uncle or my cousins, I'm going to have hope," he said. Officials said the missing miners might have been able to reach airtight chambers stocked with food, water and enough oxygen for four days. But rescue teams checked one of two chambers nearby, and it was empty. The buildup of gases prevented them from reaching other chambers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"I don't want to give anybody any false hope, but by golly, if ... that's my father or my brother or my uncle or my cousins, I'm going to have hope."
West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin

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Marriage drama has South Asia abuzz

Former Pakistan cricket team captain Shoaib Malik isn't the first professional athlete to receive unsolicited pictures from an admiring female fan.

MAHESH KUMAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sania Mirza and Shoaib Malik, to be married later this month, addressing the media in India on Monday.

But his decision to marry his romantic pursuer — sight unseen — surely sets him apart. In 2002, Malik was a rising star in Pakistan cricket when he agreed to recite marriage vows over the phone with Ayesha Siddiqui — the two had never met.

Eight years on, Malik's baffling move is stoking a media frenzy throughout South Asia and threatening to sideline a highly anticipated Indian celebrity wedding this month.

News of Malik's bizarre marriage emerged after his family confirmed recently that the 28-year-old is scheduled to marry Indian tennis star Sania Mirza, 23, two months after they first met. Siddiqui, 29, wants an official divorce, and has filed a police complaint accusing Malik of cheating and criminal intimidation.

For his part, Malik admits he did marry Siddiqui over the phone after they exchanged photographs. But those photos, he insists, turned out to be of someone else, a younger, prettier woman.

The highly charged drama has dominated Indian and Pakistani TV news coverage. Shiv Sena, a right-wing political party that previously accused Mirza of disrespecting the Indian flag, said she could not be truly Indian if she chose to marry a Pakistani. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Women busted smuggling corpse

BRITAIN Police have arrested two women at an airport after they reportedly tried to smuggle a corpse onto a flight. Police said yesterday the women were detained at Liverpool's John Lennon Airport "on suspicion of failing to give notification of death" of a 91-year-old man. The BBC reported that the women placed the man, a relative of theirs, into a wheelchair and covered his face with sunglasses in a bid to get him aboard a flight to Berlin. The women, aged 41 and 66, were detained Saturday and have been released on bail. They have not been charged and police say inquiries are continuing. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Conjoined twins leave Palestine

SAUDI ARABIA The first known Palestinian conjoined twins were flown to Saudi Arabia yesterday for separation surgery, overcoming a particularly Gazan string of obstacles including a blockade, squabbling governments and even holidays. Egyptian officials authorized a rare opening of the Rafah crossing so the 11-day-old girls, their parents and a medical team could enter Egypt. A special Saudi medical plane then whisked them to Saudi Arabia, where Saudi King Abdullah will pay for their operation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No casualties reported after major quake

INDONESIA A 7.7 earthquake shook Indonesia's northwest island of Sumatra this morning, prompting a brief tsunami warning and sending residents rushing for higher ground. There were no immediate reports of widespread damage.

The quake was centred 205 kilometres northwest of the coastal town of Sibolga in Sumatra at a depth of 46 km, the U.S. Geological Survey said. It had earlier said the quake measured 7.8.

"So far no damage or casualties have been reported and the situation is under control," Aceh Governor Irwandi Yusuf said.

The Indonesia Meteorology and Geophysics Agency and the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Honolulu issued tsunami warnings following the quake, but lifted them two hours later.

At least five strong aftershocks measuring up to 5.2 were recorded, the meteorology agency said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Man charged with arson of topless coffee shop
Fire investigators in Maine say a man is being charged with setting a fire that destroyed the topless coffee shop where his girlfriend worked. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New nuclear option

Obama rewrites U.S. policy on use of weapons

U.S. President Barack Obama vowed yesterday to constrain the use of the nation's Cold War-era nuclear arsenal, part of a bold but politically risky move aimed at discouraging nuclear technology from spreading.

Obama's plan, a sharp departure from his predecessor's policy, is a bid to play down the threat posed by nations like Russia and China while emphasizing the threat posed by terrorists or states believed to encourage terror.

"To stop the spread of nuclear weapons, prevent nuclear terrorism, and pursue the day when these weapons do not exist, we will work aggressively to advance every element of our comprehensive agenda: To reduce arsenals, to secure vulnerable nuclear materials, and to strengthen" international agreements, Obama said in a statement.

Under the new plan, the U.S. promises not to use nuclear weapons against countries that do not have them. The policy would not apply to states like North Korea and Iran, however, because of their refusal to co-operate on non-proliferation standards. Obama's plan would lessen the role nuclear weapons play in America's defence planning. Democrats also praised the decision, while some Republicans said it could weaken the U.S. defence capability. Rep. Buck McKeon, the top Republican on the House Armed Services Committee, said the policy change could carry "clear consequences" for security and said he was troubled by "some of the language and perceived signals embedded" in the policy. At a Pentagon news conference, Defence Secretary Robert Gates said the unprecedented limits being placed on the U.S. nuclear arsenal will not weaken the nation's defences and will send a "strong message" to Iran and North Korea to "play by the rules."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UN reaction

- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said he welcomes Obama's reaffirmation of his commitment to a nuclear-free world and believes the new Nuclear Posture Review "is a timely initiative in that direction."

News in brief

CHINA A dangerous gas buildup and narrow shafts stalled rescue efforts Tuesday for the remaining 32 miners trapped in a Chinese coal mine with no signs of life, as euphoria faded from the previous day's stunning rescue of 115 workers after more than a week underground. The recovery of six bodies also dimmed hopes. Rescue work stretched into its 10th day but met a new challenge as toxic, highly combustible gas seeped into the mine, reaching levels a rescue spokesman said were "impermissible." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment

Loonie dances with the Big Cheese

TheWestView

One way to tell the strength of the Canadian dollar — the length of the lineup at the border.

Last weekend, it was three hours long at B.C.'s Peace Arch border crossing. It's hard to imagine anyone waiting three hours to buy discount cheese, but I admit there's something deeply satisfying about scoring a giant wedge of mellow yellow for about one-twelfth the cost at the local supermarket. A quick way to get in touch with your inner rodent.

As I write, I'm in the perfect place to view the loonie's run to parity with the U.S. dollar: The Mandalay Bay hotel, 14 floors above the Las Vegas strip with a view of the pyramid-shaped Luxor, that peculiar monument to the excess that was never ancient Egypt.

I flew down with a host of Canadian invaders on the day the loonie reached 99.9 cents US. Yesterday morning, for one brief shining moment, the two currencies were exactly equal. This is great news for the punters, who have experienced a 25 per cent increase in their buying power from a year ago. They are the lords and ladies of the slots, the buffet, and the outlet malls.

This dance of currencies is how Canadians keep score in our one-sided competition with our American cousins. But what does it mean, really? There's loose talk about how Canada's fundamentals are so good compared to the U.S.: Our deficit is lower, our exports are in greater demand, and we're nicer. Maybe that's true. But let's not forget that while our currencies are now equal, that's about it.

The U.S. ranks first in the world with a gross domestic product (GDP) of $14.27 trillion, while Canada barely squeaks into the top 10 with $1.4 trillion. The U.S. spends almost as much on its defence budget — $1.2 trillion.

It's a good time to pause and ask if we'd be feeling so pleased with ourselves if we weren't wrapped in a $1.2-trillion security blanket. Would our resources be so valuable and in such demand if we didn't have a reliable customer that always pays its bills? Ironically, much of the strength of our dollar versus theirs depends on their good graces.

I'm not arguing that "everything is good in America." Just spend 15 minutes strolling the legendary Vegas strip: It's a temple of unsustainability, not to mention cholesterol. Don't try this at home!

But let's not let the loonie lure us into a fool's paradise of our own. So, sit back, relax and wait your turn. It's a three-hour wait for the cheese.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

Word on the street: Are you cheering for Tiger Woods as he returns to golf at the Masters this week?

Jackie Wilson
Calgary

A: Yes I will. I want to see what he's going to do since he's been in the news so much. I didn't watch Tiger Woods before, but I'm interested now.

Jeremiah Crawford
Calgary

A: I'm totally rooting for Tiger Woods ... Everybody deserves to be forgiven. His past and what he does in his personal life really should have nothing to do with him as a professional athlete.

Darren McEwan
Ottawa

A: No. I'm not cheering against him. I'm just not cheering for him. I'm cheering for Mike Weir, a Canadian, to win it.

Sunny Deol
Burnaby, B.C.

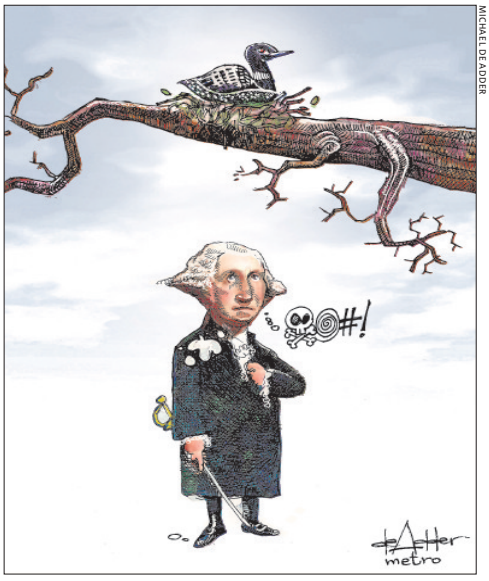
A: No, I think he's a complete d-bag for everything he's done to his wife and kids.

Michael von Klitzing
Edmonton

A: I will be cheering for him. It will be the first time I am watching the Masters, and I'm looking just to see Tiger Woods' comeback. I'm excited to see how well he'll do, to see if he will choke or not.

Anna Hayes
Toronto

A: No, there are more important things happening in the world other than Tiger Woods' comeback. I don't care what he's done; he's not the first or the last.



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Big investor for Virgin Money

U.S. billionaire investor Wilbur Ross has bought a 21 per cent stake in Richard Branson's Virgin Money, backing the British entrepreneur's bid to buy hundreds of branches of the government-owned Royal Bank of Scotland. Ross, paid 100 million pounds ($152 million) under the deal announced yesterday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Economists say a strong loonie will not mean lower prices right away.

Loonie briefly flies at par

The loonie returned to parity for the first time in 20 months yesterday, but analysts and retailers say Canadians shouldn't expect to see price parity in stores.

Buoyed by strong Canadian fundamentals and the currency's upward momentum, the loonie hovered around parity with the U.S. dollar most of the day, reaching as high as 100.12¢ US, before settling a fraction below the line at 99.88¢. But economists say it is only a matter of time — maybe days — before the currency stakes its ground above the line for an extended period.

"Canada is the new Switzerland of stability, but with domestic assets the world wants," said Derek Holt, vice-president of economics with Scotia Capital, in reference to Canada's commodity riches, including oil.

Mark Beazley of the Retail Council of Canada said parity will inevitably lead to pressure on retailers to match prices on everything from clothes to electronics to automobiles with the U.S., in part because the comparison is easy to make. But he cautions that the value of the currency is only one of many factors that determine prices.

"Canada is one-tenth the size of the U.S. market so Canadian retailers aren't getting the volume discounts their American counterparts are getting, and we have higher labour costs, higher import taxes, unique (bilingual) labelling requirements," he explained.

Analysts said the adjustments could take months or even years — as they did the last time the currency rose to and above the U.S. dollar in the fall of 2007.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Convenience stores face tough times

RETAIL Canada's convenience stores were hammered last year by higher credit card fees, contraband cigarettes and the economic recession, according to an industry-sponsored study.

Illegal tobacco sales continued to cost stores more than $2.5 billion in annual sales and $260 million in profits, said the report prepared by Pricewaterhouse-Coopers.

The industry is heavily dependent on cigarette sales. Two out of every three cigarettes sold legally in Canada are purchased in convenience stores.

Credit card fees accounted for $200 million in costs, some $50 million of that as a result of a recent increase in processing fees by major card companies.

The industry's profitability was also hurt by an average five per cent increase in the minimum wage.

Overall, the net profitability of convenience stores was barely holding at about one per cent, about half the level in 2008.

The future is expected to remain challenging as the maturing industry faces slowing sales growth, the study said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Frugal eaters turn to High Liner: CEO

FOODS Frugal Americans who buy more frozen seafood for home cooking will bring about "modest increases" in U.S. sales for High Liner Foods Inc. this year, the Lunenburg-based firm's chief executive predicts.

The United States accounted for slightly more than half of the company's sales last year, with the remainder coming mostly from in Canada. Sales in both countries were down from the previous year, but the decline in U.S. sales was bigger.

The trend in the recession-battered United States consists of aging baby boomers who are eating in and seeking to reduce calories by eating fish, High Liner CEO Henry Demone said yesterday after the company's annual meeting. "I use the term 'the new normal' in the U.S. because the U.S. consumer was really over-leveraged in terms of credit cards and mortgages and now people are saving money and paying down debt," Demone said.

Demone, the son of a sea captain who fished the Grand Banks, said he's also still trolling the United States for potential acquisitions, after not finding any willing sellers in 2009.

Last year, the U.S. business had earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization of $23 million, a jump of 25 per cent over the year before.

Overall, profits rose from $14.2 million in 2008, or 88 cents per share, to $19.7 million, or $1.07 per share in 2009.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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News in brief

TELECOM Telus Corp. says it will invest $650 million this year on infrastructure in British Columbia to deliver more high-speed Internet, high-definition TV and advanced wireless services to its customers in that province. Telus CEO Darren Entwistle said the company has invested more than $22 billion in technology and operations in B.C. since 2000, the year he became head of Canada's second-largest telecom company. Last month, he announced a similar $650-million spending plan for neighbouring Alberta — another province where Telus is the dominant telecom carrier. It has yet to outline its spending 2010 spending plans for the Ontario and Quebec market, where it also competes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

WestJet sees 10% jump in passenger numbers

AIRLINES The newly-appointed chief executive of WestJet Airlines Ltd., Gregg Saretsky, says he's pleased with how the company performed last month.

WestJet's passenger traffic in March was up 10 per cent from the same time last year. That equates to about 94,000 additional guests.

The Calgary-based airline's load factor — which is a measure of how full its fleet was — rose to 83.8 per cent.

That's up 1.9 percentage points from March 2009, despite a 7.4 per cent increase in capacity.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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AOL looking to sell or shutter Bebo

ONLINE The struggling Internet company AOL plans to sell or shut down social website Bebo, which it bought for $850 million nearly two years ago.

In an email sent to AOL Inc. employees yesterday, the company said that Bebo's audience is falling and that it would need a "significant investment" to remain competitive as a social networking company.

Bebo has been popular in Europe, but not in the U.S. According to comScore Inc., it had 5.1 million U.S. users in February, compared with 209.7 million for Facebook.

AOL says it's looking for potential buyers and plans to finish a strategic evaluation by the end of May.

AOL bought Bebo in May 2008. AOL was then part of Time Warner Inc.

It separated from the media conglomerate last year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mine blast **Trading impact**

AP PHOTO/RICHARD DREW

Specialist Evan Solomon, left, directs trading in shares of Massey Energy Co., yesterday on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Massey shares fell 11.4 per cent to $48.45 US a day after a deadly explosion at a West Virginia mining operation run by Massey subsidiary Performance Coal Co., which officials said has a history of safety violations.

Future of Queen's law library uncertain
The head law librarian at Queen's University says the institution may lose its law library if cuts to the school's library system continue. The librarian says 16 library staff positions have been cut since 2004-05, and she anticipates more cuts in the future. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Dealing with McMaster's crisis

McMaster University has struck a three-member panel tasked with resolving a conflict in the institution's business school, where faculty have been divided on the issue of Dean Paul Bates' leadership. One faculty group accuses Bates of high-handed management, while the other believes he has been unfairly targeted. The dean will continue in his position and is expected to work in consultation with the panel. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Communication breakdown

KEITH CARMAN
for Metro Canada

Nonverbal communication, such as and eye contact, can make or break a job interview, says Alison Craig, author of Hello Job.

What you say isn't half as important as they way you do — or don't — say it.

Sound ridiculous? Consider this: How many of us have walked out of a job screening thinking we aced it? Our answers were wittily smooth, providing great insight into our character and abilities while our resumé was a perfect response to the job description? Still, we didn't get that anticipated call back.

Here's a possible reason. In job interviews, common perception is that what we say has more weight than how it's conveyed. However, as author Alison Craig reveals in her latest book Hello Job (Blue Monarch Press), one often overlooked aspect of job hunting is the mannerisms we employ when searching for, well, employ.

"Nonverbal communication is one more piece to the communication puzzle and even dominates the picture, ranging from your body language and facial expressions to your voice and, of course, your overall image," she asserts.

Looking at it that way, it's clear how a spotless work history might not be a deal-clincher. Craig notes that regaling those rehearsed speeches about our strengths and weaknesses invariably prove more successful when combined with effective body language, a mode of articulation most Human Resources professionals are highly trained in reading/understanding yet we commonly overlook.

"Don't fool yourself; they are watching you," she says. "Not giving direct eye contact can be construed as simple nervousness or that you are hiding something from the interviewer. Closed body language such as crossed legs, purses/brief cases on your lap or arms fully crossed across the chest is an unintentional warning telling others to keep their distance; that we are disinterested in what is going on," Craig says.

So how do we tackle these unwitting, soundless modes of correspondence?

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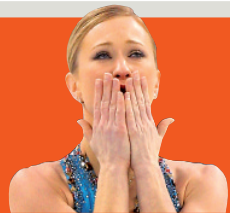
Semenya will wait for gender test results

Caster Semenya will wait for the results of her gender verification tests before returning to competitive running, saying yesterday that she will race June 24 at a meet in Zaragoza, Spain. The results of the tests are expected in June. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports



Rochette on Time's shortlist

Olympic medallist Joannie Rochette is on Time magazine's preliminary list of the 100 most influential people of 2010. The 24-year-old figure skater won a bronze medal in Vancouver last month just days after the death of her mother from a heart attack. Rochette, of Ile Dupras, Que., was 26th overall in online voting out of 200 candidates, with more than 7,000 votes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

MIKE RIDEWOOD/GETTY IMAGES

Flames defenceman Jay Bouwmeester tries to keep Logan Couture of the San Jose Sharks away from goalie Miikka Kiprusoff.

Flames out of running

NHL RESULTS

Sharks 2 Flames 1

Evgeni Nabokov made 38 saves last night to lead the San Jose Sharks to a 2-1 victory over the Calgary Flames, who saw their playoff hopes evaporate.

With the victory, San Jose clinched first place in the Pacific Division for a third consecutive year.

The Sharks also stayed in first place in the Western Conference standings. Chicago, which won 5-2 over Dallas, is two points back. The Blackhawks hold a game in hand.

Colorado beat Vancouver 4-3 in a shootout later in the night, eliminating the Flames from playoff contention.

Since winning the Stanley Cup in 1989, Calgary has missed the playoffs nine times and lost out in the first round of the playoffs 10 times.

It would be the first season in his three years as a NHL head coach that Brent Sutter will not be in the post-season, having lost in the first round in both of his previous seasons in New Jersey.

Rob Blake and Jamie McGinn supplied the offence for San Jose (49-20-11).

The Sharks have gone 6-1-1 since a six-game winless skid had temporarily dropped them to second place in the Pacific behind Phoenix.

Rene Bourque scored the lone goal for Calgary (40-31-9).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

San Jose 2 CALGARY 1
Ottawa 5 Florida 2
N.Y. Islanders 4 Montreal 3 (SO)
Philadelphia 2 Toronto 0
Buffalo 5 N.Y. Rangers 2
Carolina 8 Tampa Bay 5
Chicago 5 Dallas 2
New Jersey 3 Atlanta 0
Washington 6 Pittsburgh 3
Colorado 4 Vancouver 3 (SO)
Los Angeles 5 Anaheim 4 (SO)

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Cleveland 113 Toronto 101
Charlotte 109 Atlanta 100
Detroit 124 Philadelphia 103
Houston 113 Memphis 103
Milwaukee 79 Chicago 74
New York 104 Boston 101
Utah 140 Oklahoma City 139 (OT)
San Antonio 95 Sacramento 86
Washington 112 Golden State 94

BASEBALL

YESTERDAY'S AL RESULTS

N.Y. Yankees 6 Boston 4
Tampa Bay 4 Baltimore 3
Minnesota at L.A. Angels
Seattle at Oakland

YESTERDAY'S NL RESULTS

San Francisco 3 Houston 0
Milwaukee 7 Colorado 5
San Diego at Arizona

For more scores visit metronews.ca/sports

Sports in brief

NFL The Minnesota Vikings may have finally found their quarterback of the future: Brett Favre is now a grandfather. His 21-year-old daughter, Brittany, has given birth to a boy — Parker Brett. The baby weighed in at seven pounds, seven ounces.

BASEBALL The percentage of Major League Baseball players born outside the United States dipped slightly from last year. It was 27.7 per cent at the start of this season, down from 28 per cent on opening day in 2009. The Dominican Republic leads with 86 players in the majors, while Canada was in fifth place with 13 players.

NHL Vancouver Canucks forward Ryan Johnson will miss at least the first round of the NHL playoffs with a broken foot. Canucks coach Alain Vigneault said yesterday that the oft-injured fourth-line centre, a noted shot-blocker, will be sidelined four to six weeks with the injury. The 33-year-old Thunder Bay native has been limited to 58 games this year. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Woods set for late start

GOLF Thousands of fans are following Tiger Woods around Augusta National during practice rounds. Millions more around the world will be able to watch when he officially makes his return to golf at the Masters tomorrow.

Woods was put in the next-to-last group for the opening round — his first meaningful shot since his private life unravelled in sordid tales of infidelity five months ago. His 11:42 a.m. MDT tee time fits perfectly into live television coverage (TSN, 2 p.m.) Joining the world's No. 1 player will be K.J. Choi and Matt Kuchar.

"It's funny, because I sort of had a feeling when I left Dallas that it would be cool if I was paired with Tiger, and it happened," Choi said when he walked off the 18th green yesterday. "I like playing with big crowds."

Mike Weir of Bright's Grove, Ont., tees off at 7:40 a.m. MDT and is paired with Lee Westwood and amateur Matteo Manassero.

Woods did not speak to the media yesterday, yet he remains very much the centre of attention at this Masters. The first big hurdle was going public — playing golf before fans and speaking to the media for the first time since Nov. 15.

The next big test comes tomorrow, when he starts keeping score. Woods twice has gone nine weeks without competition before a major championship — the 2006 U.S. Open after his father died and the 2008 U.S. Open after knee surgery — but he has never come to Augusta National without any type of a tuneup.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Interactive profiles

- Meet the favourites, contenders and longshots for this year's Masters at **metronews.ca/sports**

McNabb begins 'new chapter'

"Sometimes you're forced into change."
Donovan McNabb

NFL The quarterback holding the burgundy No. 5 Washington Redskins jersey was Donovan McNabb. From everything that was said, it might have been simpler to just go ahead and call him John Elway II.

The six-time Pro Bowl star was formally introduced yesterday at Redskins Park. All things being equal, he would rather be preparing for a 12th season with the Philadelphia Eagles, but an Easter Sunday trade between NFC East rivals has opened what he called "a new chapter in the book of Donovan."

"I've always believed in finishing where you started," McNabb said. "I think there's a lot to be said with that. Not a lot of quarterbacks in this league are able to do that these days. Sometimes change is better. Sometimes you're forced into change. I would have loved to (stay in Philadelphia), but it didn't happen."

Instead, he is with the Redskins and new coach Mike Shanahan, and both went to great lengths to say that trading two draft picks for a 33-year-old quarterback with a few nicks is a solid investment. They did so by repeatedly invoking Elway, who was 34 when Shanahan became coach of the Broncos in 1995.

"I'm turning 34 this year," McNabb said. "And he finished John's career with two Super Bowls. Hopefully I can continue to follow behind that." THE ASSOCIATED PRESSS

Koe suffers first loss

ANTONIO CALANNI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kevin Koe throws his rock yesterday against Scotland.

CURLING Kevin Koe's perfect run at the Capital One World Men's Curling Championship is over.

Veteran German Andreas Kapp posted a 9-6 win over the Edmonton skip yesterday, ending a six-game winning streak in Koe's tournament debut.

Koe opened the day with a dominating 6-2 win over Scotland's Warwick Smith to take sole possession of first place in the standings at 6-0.

But the Canadians struggled in the evening draw, eventually losing to a Kapp rink desperate for a win to keep its playoff hopes alive.

"Well, we didn't play well and that's what happens," said Koe.

"That was a big win for them and not a good loss for us. We kind of gave away the game early and just didn't play well."

Koe said Kapp's experience played a part in the win. "These guys have been around," said Koe. "This is about their 15th worlds, they've played lots of these and they played well."

The loss dropped Koe into a three-way tie with Scotland and Norway atop the standings at 6-1.

Smith rebounded from the loss to Koe by beating the Germans 7-4 in the afternoon draw while Norway hammered Switzerland 7-1 then beat host Italy 10-5.

Denmark improved to 5-1 after a 10-4 win over Sweden and a 7-6 extra-end victory over Japan. Germany and the U.S. finished the day tied at 4-3.

Kapp said it's always nice to beat Canada.

"But it's more important just to keep contact with the top," he added. "That would have been another tough loss, because we've already lost three tight games." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Islanders prevent Canadiens from clinching
Frans Nielsen scored the tying goal with 2:01 left in regulation and added another goal in the shootout as the New York Islanders beat Montreal 4-3 to prevent the Canadiens from clinching a playoff spot last night. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Many Flames must go

Calgary features a large list of players that should be jettisoned

TheHockeyNews

No one asked, but here's my list of things to do to make over the Calgary Flames for next season.

1. Sign Ian White and Mark Giordano to contracts, probably close to $3 and $4 million apiece, respectively. Giordano has been Calgary's best defenceman all season and White has been terrific since coming over from Toronto. Giordano's contract wouldn't kick in until 2011-12.

2. Move either Cory Sarich or Steve Staois. Both are solid third-pair defencemen, but at $3.6 million and $2.7 million, respectively, there's only room for one of them. That opens the door for a cheaper, but capable Adam Pardy and a minimum-wage seventh defenceman from Abbotsford.

3. Craig Conroy, Chris Higgins, Jamal Mayers and Brian McGrattan should all be let go as free agents. All were serviceable, but there are younger, cheaper replacements out there. Higgins made $2.25 million this season. If he's willing to sign for a retribution discount of $1 million or so, the way Rene Bourque did two years ago and Nigel Dawes did last season, he'd be worth the risk.

4. Find a way to make Ales Kotalik and his $3 million each of the next two seasons go away. He doesn't score enough, do enough or work hard enough to be a top-six forward.

5. Get rid of either Daymond Langkow (two years at $4.5 million) or Matt Stajan (four years at $3.5 million). Neither are top-line producers. With Mikael Backlund penciled in as the No. 2 centre, there's only room for one of Langkow or Stajan as the No. 3 centre.

6. Trade David Moss for a draft pick. At $1.3 million, he's not a budget-breaker, but he doesn't do enough or produce enough that a guy like Jason Jaffray couldn't do at $500,000. Plus, you'd get a draft pick in exchange for Moss.

Making these changes, signing Eric Nystrom to a nominal raise and filling out the 23-man roster with $500,000 reinforcements would result in a payroll of $49 million.

That leaves close to $8 million for a top-line centre to play with Jarome Iginla and Bourque.

If, for whatever reason, that and a coaching change that puts an emphasis on offensive creativity does not work out and the Flames are outside the playoff picture next February, then it's time to trade Iginla and Robyn Regehr to a Cup contender while their value will still result in decent return.

Ian White

The Hockey News thn.com

Sports in brief

NHL Ryan Miller made 30 saves in helping the Buffalo Sabres clinch the Northeast Division title with a 5-2 win over the New York Rangers last night. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

METRO HOCKEY POOL STANDINGS*

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NAME	LOCATION	GP	G	A	PTS
1. Brian B	AB, CA	1043	434	611	1045
2. Jonathon Gremsperger	BC, CA	1045	443	600	1043
3. Stephanie Warren	NS, CA	1015	420	609	1029
4. Shawn Tschritter	AB, CA	1034	419	600	1019
5. Christian Gagnon	NB, CA	982	402	615	1017
6. Dennis MacDougall	NS, CA	1009	407	604	1011
7. Cole Warren	NS, CA	1029	376	631	1007
7. Kyle Turk	NS, CA	1040	424	583	1007
9. Blaine Schlechter	AB, CA	1002	402	603	1005
10. Bernie Horton	ON, CA	968	415	585	1000
11. Myles Dennis	NS, CA	993	381	617	998
12. Calvin Lewis	NS, CA	1034	407	590	997
13. Steve Ferguson	ON, CA	1020	402	593	995
14. Grant Greenfield	AB, CA	1000	438	554	992
15. Sarah Jackson	ON, CA	984	371	619	990

* Results exclude Quebec

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Rocky View: CrossIron Mills

Hybrid sales to rise: Study

Global hybrid electric vehicle sales are expected to rise by 16 per cent in 2010, according to a new report by J.D. Power and Associates. The company expects 840,000 hybrids to be sold by the end of the year. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Metro Drive

Polo on top

The Volkswagen Polo, left, has been named the World Car of the Year. The Audi R8 won Performance Car of the Year, and the Chevrolet Camaro was named Design of the Year at the New York International Auto Show. CANADIANDRIVER.COM

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Golf Wagon excels

The 2010 Volkswagen Golf Wagon is the biggest Golf ever.

ROB BEINTEMA
for Metro Canada

Ah, station wagons. They originated as "depot hacks" to carry passengers and luggage from train station to hotel.

Then they evolved into Boomer family haulers and cross-country tourers before gradually degenerating into bloated and vinyl-clad irrelevance, battered by energy crises and compact car revolutions before being supposedly killed off by the advent of the minivan.

But it seems that rumours of their death have been somewhat exaggerated.

Station wagons are back, an evolutionary rebound from SUV excess, regaining their original popularity with a modern mix of utilitarian practicality, contemporary style and perky performance.

Take the 2010 Golf Wagon for example.

With a starting price of $22,675, the Golf Wagon is a cheaper entry into German-engineered utility than most Euro-SUVs or crossovers.

And yet it offers acceptable, compact-style family seating and loads of cargo-carrying ability, a natural fit for multi-purpose business needs, weekend getaway gear haulage, or for families with pets.

The Golf Wagon is the biggest Golf ever with 930 litres of luggage space behind the rear seats, expanding to an impressive 1890 litres with the 60/40 second row folded flat.

That's roomier than the cargo rating of VW's Tiguan compact SUV. It rivals the larger Touareg's numbers and even surpasses the maximum luggage space of the bigger Passat Wagon.

From the driver's seat, it's easy to forget about cargo space as you look around a premium passenger cabin that is elegantly symmetrical with evident quality in content and construction. Simple, round red-needled gauges are brilliantly lit in white.

Outside, this sixth generation Golf Wagon pays tribute to the first generation Golf with a radiator grille horizontally aligned between the headlights. For a wagon, it's unexpectedly sleek. It's low-slung, sporty lines and very "un-wagonish" persona surprised me every time that I walked up to it.

The 2010 VW Golf Wagon comes in varying trim levels with a choice of two engine versions — gasoline or TDI Clean Diesel.

It comes standard with a five-speed manual or optional six-speed automatic. My real world combined results with the slightly more frugal automatic averaged out to 10.1L/100km. This gasoline-powered variant starts with the base Trendline model, moving upscale to a Comfortline trim level.

Regardless of personal preferences, trim selections or even powertrain choices, the 2010 Volkswagen Golf Wagon blends quality and content in a package that is elegantly stylish and eminently practical.

Long live the station wagon.

2010 VW Golf Wagon

Type: Five-door compact wagon
Price: from $22,675
Engine: 2.5-litre inline 20-valve five-cylinder; 2.0-litre inline turbocharged four-cylinder common rail diesel

Highlights

- Biggest Golf ever
- Choice of gasoline and TDI clean diesel
- Stylish

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BMW goes HD across board
If you've got your heart set on picking up a 2011 BMW of any flavour, we've got good news for you. The company has announced that it's making HD Radio standard on all of its products in the U.S., from the lowly 128i to the big 760Li. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Car owners, rise and shine

Spring is sprung, the grass is riz, and I don't wonder where the birdie is? Because they just did their business on my car!

Even if the birdies spared your vehicle, this would be a great time to get out there with a brush and a bucket.

Here are some helpful hints that you might have forgotten, and that address recent developments in paint and wheel finishes and car washing products.

They were brought to our attention through conversations with two car washing experts: Jim Dvorak of Mothers Polish, and Rachel Agnew of Black Magic (a division of Shell Lubricants).

Essential car-cleaning tools & supplies

- Positive shut-off hose nozzle
- Wheel and Tire Cleaner
- Dedicated brush and bucket for wheel and tire cleaning
- Biodegradable car wash
- Two wash mitts and two buckets for body washing
- Microfibre drying and polishing towels
- Protectant for vinyl and rubber (including tires)
- Glass cleaner (ammonia-free so safe for tinted windows)
- Wax
- Instant Detailer (to remove dust, bird droppings, etc., between washings)
- For more information, you can check out these sites:
detailguide.com
waxforum.com
blackmagicshine.com

WHEELING: Do the wheels first, says Agnew, and one at a time. Don't apply wheel cleaner when the wheel is hot, and don't leave it on too long. Dvorak cautions to know your wheel's make-up. All modern factory aluminum wheels have a coating — they need paint polish, not aluminum polish.

SOAPING: For soaping a car down, I prefer to use a live squirrel. But Dvorak recommends a sheepskin or lambs wool wash mitt for the main body (above the beltline), and second mitt (microfibre "mop head" or "chenille") for the dirtier lower body. This lowers your chances of scratching paint with dirt particles in your mitt. Agnew reminds us not to use dish soap, which will certainly strip away any wax you've applied. Car wash soap is milder and is designed to carry dirt away when rinsed. Use two buckets: one to rinse dirt off the mitt, the other to put clean suds on the mitt.

RINSING AND DRYING: The key to a successful "dry" is a great "rinse." Dvorak suggests taking off your hose's spray nozzle, and lowering the water stream so it just shoots out about a foot. Then work to get a "sheeting" action on each body panel, before moving on to the next panel. When the water comes off in "sheets" there is less waiting for you to dry off. Dvorak has a vendetta for the old-school leather chamois — they're too grabby. They take wax off, and can even scratch some of the newer (and softer, water-based) finishes. Plush terry cloth or plush microfibre work best.

WAXING: There is a misconception that vehicles with clear coat paint finishes do not need wax. You want to protect your clear coat, as you would any coat. Our experts recommend waxing every eight to 12 weeks. New synthetic wax products are very easy to polish off, even if left on for hours (unlike carbuna wax, which sometimes needs to be chiseled off). Dvorak adds that many people are revisiting the benefits of the "pre-wax" clay bar. After applying clay bar lubricant, you simply run the clay bar along the body panels, to pick up any dirt, metal flakes, pollutants, etc., that have imbedded themselves into the paint.

GREENING: Use biodegradable car-wash soap, and a positive shut-off nozzle on the hose to conserve water. If you're cleaning oily stuff, make sure it goes down a drain routed to a treatment plant. "Regular" dirt can go down a sewer drain (but first check municipality by-laws).

Washing and cleaning a car is not as simple as you think.

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for over 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.

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- AUTOMOBILE Magazine

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Applies to vehicles built after November 2009. For more information go to www.iihs.org

Scion iQ, tC on their way

Scion has presented two new production vehicles at the New York Auto Show: The 2011 iQ premium micro-subcompact, and the 2011 sports coupe. The tC is scheduled to arrive in dealerships this fall, while the iQ will go on sale in early 2011. CANADIANDRIVER.COM

Camry built on reputation

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
for Metro Canada

A newer, low-mileage fifth-generation Toyota Camry from a certified dealer program is a good bet for long-term confidence.

Second Gear

MODEL: 2002 to 2005 Toyota Camry
VEHICLE TYPE: Sedan
APPROXIMATE USED PRICE RANGE: $5,500 to $15,000

HISTORY/DESCRIPTION: Building on generations of reliability and owner satisfaction, the last-generation Toyota Camry was bought as a proven, no-nonsense machine by thousands of Canadians. If you're looking for a level-headed used family sedan, they don't get much more sensible than this.

Used Camry shoppers in this generation can choose between a 2.4 litre four-cylinder engine with 157 horsepower, or a 3-litre V6 with 192. Later in Camry's life, the V6 was up-sized to 3.3 litres, and horsepower climbed to 220.

The four-cylinder engine should prove adequate for most drivers, though the V6 is popular with those after added performance, and those who frequently travel with a carload of occupants and gear. All Camry models were front wheel drive, and an automatic or manual transmission were available — depending on the selected engine.

Lower-end Camry's got an "LE" designation, while more upscale units were badged "SE" or "XLE" in top-line trim. Shoppers can look for a sunroof, remote entry, power accessories, power seats, antilock brakes and automatic climate control. A six-CD changer, steering wheel mounted audio controls and an auto-dimming rearview mirror were available, too. The Camry wasn't a car anyone bought for excitement, though it was available very nicely equipped.

WHAT OWNERS LIKE: Last-generation Camry owners typically report satisfaction with the ride quality, roomy interior and fuel mileage. The big trunk and available V6 performance were commonly praised, too.

WHAT OWNERS HATE: Typical owner complaints deal with Camry's bland looks and character. Some owners also wish for better visibility, more comfortable seats and more agile handling, too.

COMMON ISSUES: If you're shopping for an earlier Camry in this generation, scrutinize its steering while driving in a straight line. Question any "pull" you experience through the wheel, as there are many well-documented cases of an apparently unfixable alignment issue at the start of this generation.

Early Camry models in this generation may also have a higher likelihood of transmission trouble, according to owners forums. Several reports of failed transmissions are documented — so use extra caution on earlier automatic models. Ensure fluid and filter changes are up to date, and opt for the manual transmission if possible.

THE VERDICT: If your budget allows, a newer, low-mileage fifth-generation Camry from a Toyota Certified dealer program should prove the best bet for long-term confidence. Ultimately, there are less expensive used family sedans in the used car market, but few with this strong a reputation.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Local Dealers Selling Cars for $5

Two local car dealerships have released an offer that's sending Calgarians into a near tailspin. "We're selling off vehicles for as low as five dollars," says Kevin Fanning, GM of Calgary Honda. "We have a surplus of pre-owned inventory right now," he adds. With new car sales having increased significantly in recent months, the dealership has taken more vehicles in on trade than anticipated. "We're willing to do what it takes to move it - which is beyond great news for the consumer out there."

"Clearly this is no ordinary car sale," says Doug Mclean, GM of Hyundai Gallery. "We're confident that everyone will get an incredible deal….and have fun in the process."

The event will feature a large selection of pre-owned cars, trucks, vans and sport utility vehicles, assuring shoppers an excellent selection of many different makes and models. "This is the public's opportunity to make us an offer," says Fanning. "You're not going to find a better deal out there."

Calgarians can also be confident about the quality of vehicles up for grabs. In recent months, the dealerships implemented a new vision for their Pre-Owned departments. Hearing what customers had to say about used vehicle inventories around the city, the teams made it their mandates to change how they sourced pre-owned vehicles. "Our customers were tired of finding poor quality used vehicles around Calgary," says Ian Andrews, General Sales Manager at Calgary Honda. "The lots were full of Eastern-sourced vehicles and rental returns. We wanted to provide them with vehicles we'd be happy to take home ourselves."

Since then, the shift in focus has become extremely popular with existing customers. "They basically hand pick each vehicle they take in on trade," adds one customer who recently took home a pre-owned vehicle from Calgary Honda. "I haven't experienced that at other dealers at all."

Most pre-owned vehicles are locally owned and locally driven, come with a warranty and a 'buyer-be-happy' guarantee," says Andrews. "Let's face it – if our customers don't go home happy, they might never come back. It's in our best interest to ensure they leave here with big smiles on their faces."

The event begins at 8 a.m. on Saturday, April 10th. Calgary Honda and Hyundai Gallery are both located at the corner of Anderson Road & Macleod Trail. For further details, visit www.calgaryhonda.ca or www.hyundaigallery.com. It is a first-come, first-served basis. Sale price does not include taxes + administration fee. Buyers must be at least 18 years old. See dealer for details.

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2010 ROGUE FWD S

0% PURCHASE FINANCING FOR UP TO 36 MONTHS*

CITY: 9.2L/100KM (31 MPG)
HWY: 7.3L/100KM (39 MPG)▲▲

2.5 SL FWD MODEL SHOWN▲
www.nissan.ca/rogue

170-hp, 2.5-litre DOHC engine • Standard ABS, Vehicle Dynamic Control (VDC), and Traction Control System (TCS) Standard Xtronic CVT® w/ available paddle shifters • Auxiliary audio input jack • Nissan Advanced Six Airbag System Available intuitive all-wheel drive (AWD) system • Winner of a Consumers Digest Best Buy Award[1]

★★★★★ 5-STAR RATING FOR SIDE-IMPACT CRASH SAFETY [2]

0.9% LEASING FOR UP TO 36 MONTHS**

0% FINANCING

2010 VERSA HATCH 1.8 S

0% PURCHASE FINANCING FOR UP TO 36 MONTHS*

CITY: 7.9L/100KM (36 MPG)
HWY: 6.3L/100KM (45 MPG)▲▲

1.8 SL MODEL SHOWN▲
www.nissan.ca/versahatch

Highest horsepower in its class (122-hp)[3], 1.8-litre DOHC engine • Most rear leg room in its class (966 mm)[4] • 60/40 split folding rear seat • Available auxiliary input jack and iPod® connectivity† • Nissan Advanced Six Airbag System • Up to 5.8 L/100 km on highway with available Xtronic CVT® • Winner of a Consumers Digest Best Buy Award[1]

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*0.9%/0.9% lease rate for up to 36/36 month term available on 2010 Rogue/Versa Hatch models. Offer is for a limited time, may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers. All prices are subject to change without notice. Retailer may lease for less. Lease based on a maximum of 24,000 km per year with excess charged at $0.10/km. **0% purchase financing for up to 36 months on 2010 Rogue and Versa Hatch models. Finance Example for a new 2010 Rogue S FWD (W6RG10 AA00): $26,318 Selling Price including $1,500 freight and PDE, excise tax and tire recycling tax, financed at 0% APR for 36 months equals $592.17 per month with $5,000 down payment or equivalent trade-in. Cost of borrowing is $0 for a total obligation of $26,318. License, registration, insurance, duties and other applicable taxes are extra. Finance offers are available on approved credit through Nissan Canada Finance for a limited time, may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers. Retailers may sell for less. Offers valid between April 1st and April 30th, 2010. Limited time offers on approved credit through Nissan Canada Finance are subject to change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers. Retailers are free to set individual prices. †The $1,500 reduction applies to all 2010 Rogue models. ▲Model shown $28,798 Selling Price for a new 2010 Rogue SL FWD (W6SG10 AA00). CVT transmission/$18,843 Selling Price for a new 2010 Versa Hatch 1.8 SL (B5RG50 AA00), manual transmission. Freight and PDE charges $1,500/$1,325, excise tax and tire recycling tax are included. License, registration, insurance, duties and other applicable taxes are extra. All prices are subject to change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers. Retailers are free to set individual prices. ▲▲Actual mileage may vary with driving conditions - use for comparison only. The 2010 Rogue and Versa Hatch are winners of a Consumers Digest Best Buy Award. The Best Buy Seal is a registered trademark of Consumers Digest Communications, LLC, used under license. ¹Government star ratings are part of the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) New Car Assessment Program (www.safercar.gov). U.S. model tested. Please see www.safercar.gov for up to date information. ²WardsAuto.com's Lower Small segment, January 2009. ³WardsAuto.com's Lower Small segment, January 2009. 2010 Versa vs. 2009 competitors. ⁴iPod is a registered trademark of Apple Inc. All rights reserved. iPod not included. ▪Preferred Customer Program: If you currently lease or finance your Nissan vehicle through us, you may already be pre-approved to lease or finance your next new Nissan model. 1% Preferred Customer Reduction currently available on the 2010 Sentra, Rogue, Maxima and Altima (except Hybrid) models. Please contact your Nissan Dealership for Nissan Canada Finance pre-approval terms and eligibility. Incentive program rate adjustments cannot reduce the lease or finance rate below 0.0%.

Jag XK got sport spirit

JIM ROBINSON
for Metro Canada

What a civilized way to travel!

For many, Jaguar is synonymous with British sports cars.

Always fast, always stylish and always with the best mix of wood veneers and fine leathers, it is hard to beat a Jaguar XK and the 2010 XK Portfolio is no exception.

The previous model was known as the XK8 and was on the market for 10 years. It was a huge step forward from the 12-cylinder XJS, an over-engined, under-engineered bouffant sportster that was a hollow version of the great XK sportscars of the 1950s and 1960s.

The new XK is designed by Ian Callum, another person I am proud to call a friend. He is refreshingly candid and is, to my mind, the heart, soul and public face of Jaguar.

The 2010 car is much longer than the XK8 and you can't help but notice this sitting behind the steering wheel with the hood stretching out before you. But that's what a real sports car is all about; big engine out front and drive to the rear.

All the Jag styling cues are there like the muscular fenders over the rear wheels and the oval, grateless grille at the nose. The difference is the new XK looks almost majestic.

2010 Jaguar XK

Type: Premium luxury sports coupe/convertible
Price: $96,500(Coupe), $103,200 (Convertible), Convertible as tested $104,770
Engine: 5.0-litre DOHC V6 (385 hp, 380 lb/ft)

Highlights

- Jaguar's traditional muscular styling cues
- Luxurious interior

The XK lineup is simple with a choice of coupe or convertible XK Portfolio with normally aspirated 5.0-litre V8 with starting prices of $96,500 (Coupe) and $103,200 (Convertible) respectively, excluding $1,270 destination and delivery charge.

The 2010 XKR with its supercharged V8 engine will start at $107,000 (Coupe) and $114,000 (Convertible) respectively.

Tested here is the XK Portfolio Convertible with $300 heated windshield and shipping charge for an as tested price of $104,770.

Beside the more gracious shape, it's the new powertrain options that are at the heart of the changes for 2010 model year.

The 2010 Jaguar XK is visibly longer than the XK8 it replaces.

Dream Car

The new AJ-V8 GEN III direct-injection 5.0-litre engines are the most advanced engines Jaguar has ever produced, each offering significant increases in performance and impressive fuel economy. Both deliver significantly more torque and power than the previous generation of engines.

In the XK Portfolio, it produces 385 hp and 380 lb/ft of torque. With the standard six-speed ZF automatic transmission, acceleration from 0-100 km/h is 5.5 seconds for the Coupe and 5.6 seconds in the Convertible. Estimated fuel consumption is 17.1/8.0/11.2L/100 km city/highway/combined.

The supercharged XKR takes the same engine and belts out 510 hp and 461 lb/ft of torque with a 0-100 km/h time of 4.8 seconds for either Coupe or Convertible. Fuel rating estimates are 18.9/8.6/12.3L/100 km city/highway/combined.

The acceleration times are good as these cars are hardly lightweights. The XK Portfolio tested here weigh in at 2,120 kg or a hefty 4,674 lb.

The V8 has a wonderful burble to the exhaust very much like the Mustang fastback that Steve McQueen drove in Bullitt. Hammer the pedal and it has an almost basso howl that is unlike anything I can remember.

All the while, the cabin is a delight in terms of fit, finish and materials. Jaguar has always done this right by staying away from plastics.

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GM research aims to help drivers cut through fog

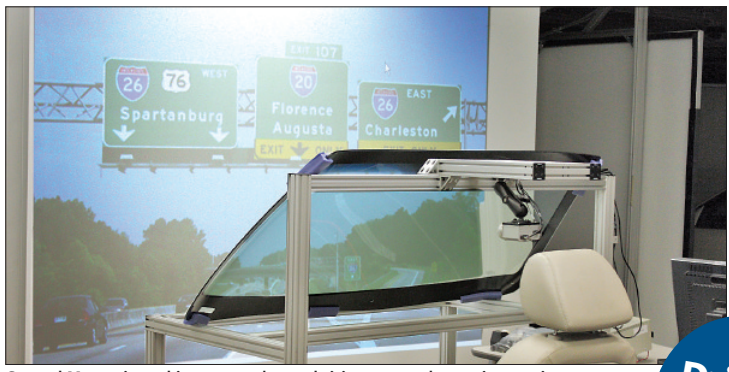
JIL MCINTOSH
for Metro Canada

If you've ever driven in heavy fog, you know how dangerous it can be. General Motors' research and development (R&D) and several universities are working on an advanced vision system that uses data from sensors and cameras to project an image across the entire windshield, letting you "see" the road clearly through the fog.

While it will be a long time before the full-screen display comes to market, if ever, the technologies being developed for it could have applications in upcoming vehicles. "The images are created by coating the windshield with a transparent phosphor," says Thomas Seder, lab group manager of human machine interface at GM R&D. "You can see through it when it's not being irradiated with UV light. But if you use a micro laser and irradiate a spot, the transparent phosphor will fluoresce, either red, green or blue."

GM was one of the first to offer a head-up display, or HUD, which projects a small image on the windshield, visible only to the driver, showing information such as vehicle speed.

"We're looking to create enhanced vision systems," Seder says. "We're not creating anything that isn't out there in the real world. If you can imagine a night vision system that could detect a deer on the side of the road, you can't see it with your naked eye, but this could see it and then highlight its exact location. If you look at some concepts that people have proposed, you could be reading your email on a head-up display, but that's not what we want to do. Once you start cluttering up HUD with information that belongs in the centre stack or head-down display, we think that's very distracting. We want to enhance the driver's vision, not detract from it."



General Motors is working on an advanced vision system that projects an image across the entire windshield, letting you "see" the road clearly through fog.

Developing technologies such as sign-reading can assist a driver by removing the need to search for landmarks. "We've all had the experience where you're scanning for the road sign and you're not looking at the road," Seder says. "The primary task in driving is piloting, and navigating is secondary, but people's attention gets focused on the secondary task."

The futuristic full-screen vision is much more complicated, because all of the information must be aligned correctly to the driver's eye. "The road signs don't require a precise image, but there's a penalty if I mismark the road edge," Seder says. "That one's more of a difficult technology. We need to know the vehicle's position, its orientation and the driver's position within the vehicle to precisely align the display image to the real-world image. It's a fairly intricate system, but we'll get better and better."

"The images are created by coating the windshield with a transparent phosphor."
GM's Thomas Seder

Driving Force

Spa escape in Dominican
Spa Escape at Paradisus will be offering stays from May 1 through July 30 at Paradisus Palma Real in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. The package, $769 per person, includes 3 nights' accommodations in a Deluxe Garden View. paradisuspalmareal.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Travel

Virtual vacations

Imagine climbing Mount Kilimanjaro or snorkeling the Great Barrier Reef. Expedia is making it easier than ever with its virtual vacations. The state-of-the-art HD 2080p wide-angle, light weight panoramic video helmet uses Expedia's patented virtual reality head wear, which will be sent to users after they sign up, so they can see in real-time where they want to go. Visit expedia.ca for more information. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: BEN.RYCROFT@METRONEWS.CA

Nice blends French flash and charm

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
Metro World News

Spend your days (and nights!) at one of Nice's magnificant beaches along the famed South of France coast. Don't forget your most stylish pair of shades.

WHERE TO WAKE UP
Negresco Hotel, hotel-negresco-nice.com
Built directly opposite the seafront, the hotel has sweeping seaviews. Sublime and surreal, the staff wear 18th century garb (whilst treading on leopard print carpets) while hand-carved carousel horses are favoured decor.

SPEND THE MORNING
Markets
The daily flower and food market along Cours Saleya is an array of sights and scents. Everything from sun-dried tomatoes drenched in olive oil to fresh baguettes or crystallized candy flowers at Confiserie Florian. Nearby is Chez Thérésais, famed for its "socca" — a chickpea flour and olive oil pancake.

WHERE TO LUNCH
Coco Beach, cocobeach-restaurant.com
Coco Beach was once the favorite lunch spot of Pablo Picasso. From the saffron-laced bouillabaisse to the pissaladière (a provencal pizza topped with caramelized onion, olives and anchovies), dishes.

SPEND THE AFTERNOON
Promenade des Anglais
Strap on a pair or rollerblades, skates or just walk the famous Promenade des Anglais. A wide palm-lined pavement following the curve of the coast. If the weather allows, take a dip in the water to cool off. Perfectly pretty.

WHERE TO DINE
L'Escalinada, escalinada.fr
Following a lengthy aperitif of olives and Pastis (aniseed liquor typical of Provence), take a seat at L'Escalinada a cozy Italian restaurant on Rue Pairoliére. Try the fried courgette and aubergine followed by home made Gorgonzola gnocchi. Real Provence.

SPEND THE NIGHT
Le Guest, 5 Quai des Deux Emmanuel, Port de Nice
Come nighttime glamour becomes the keyword. By the harbor is Le Guest — a swanky club with low lights and high prices. Dom Perignon champagne bottles are waiting to be popped open upon your arrival. Perfect for a romantic drink or a night of, high energy, dance fuelled fun.

Flight costs

- For flights, prices, times and bookings see www.nicetourisme.com

The daily flower and food markets along Cours Saleya.

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5 Romantic places

Spots guaranteed to ignite your relationship

PAUL BALDWIN
Metro World News

The Taj Mahal in Agra is a monument to lost love.

1
Romeo and Juliet
Verona

A town whose actual charm is often overlooked because of its link to the greatest romance of all time. The actual "wherefore art thou" balcony is a little underwhelming, but come on, this is Romeo and Juliet — if you can't get romantic here you may have to accept that affairs of the heart may not be your thing. The town is also one of Italy's prettiest with opera in the summer, and great galleries. Lake Garda is also nearby.

Stay: Hotel Gabbia d'Oro, Corso Porta Borsari. hotelgabbiadoro.it

2
Frankly M'Dear
Georgia

A very over-looked U.S. state as far as tourism goes but Georgia's determinedly "southern" laid back take on life and the beautiful countryside is fabulously Gone With the Wind. Many of the antebellum buildings are either real Civil War stock or stylised copies. The state is dotted with great hotels and guest houses. Frankly m'dear you 'll give a damn.

Stay: Antebellum Inn, 200 North Columbia Street, Milledgeville. antebelluminn.com

3
Anthony and Cleopatra
Cairo

By day the backdrop to the Anthony and Cleopatra love story can seem a little hectic and scruffy, but under the stars (and lit by an impressive light show), the pyramids seem fabulously romantic. There's something about their permanence and resilience in the face of all that time can throw at them that seems tailor made to inspire love.

Stay: Four Seasons Hotel, 1089 Corniche El Nil. fourseasons.com/caironp

4
Wuthering Heights
Yorkshire Moors, England

Emily Bronte's novel of thwarted passion between Heathcliffe and Cathy is routinely voted the most romantic novel of all time. And looking out onto the brooding Yorkshire Moors in northern England, it's easy to see how these rolling hills provided such inspiration. Even more haunting in the rain, which, it being Yorkshire, is highly likely.

Stay: Ashmount Country House, Mytholmes Lane, Haworth, West Yorkshire. ashmounthaworth.co.uk

5
Palace of Love
The Taj Mahal

The Taj Mahal, in Agra, is perhaps the greatest monument to lost love in the world. It was built by Emperor Shah Jahan who was griefstricken after his third wife died during the birth of their 14th child. And 350 years later the white marble minarets are still pretty much the benchmark for anyone thinking of building a palace of love.

Stay: The Oberoi Amarvillas, Taj East Gate Road. oberoihotels.com.

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METRO WORLD NEWS PHOTOS

The "wherefore art thou" balcony from Romeo and Juliet is located in Verona, one of Italy's prettiest towns.

The Cairo pyramids under the stars is sure to inspire love.

London on a budget of $50, $100 & $500

METRO WORLD NEWS

Big Ben in London, England.

Metro found what to eat, stay and go in London, England on varying budgets.

DAILY BUDGET: $50

EAT
Anchor & Hope

The best gastropub in London by a million miles. Ridiculously cheap for what you get and superbly knowlegable staff. Just brilliant! Get there early as it can get rammed.

STAY
Pasha Hotel

Great value for money boutique hotel a little bit out of the centre but easy Tube ride to all the main sights. Turkish massages are on offer too. For more information: hotelpasha.com

GO
Gig at the O2 Arena

Best place to see a gig in London, and maybe the world. Huge, but has atmosphere, and loads of bars and restaurants outside. Plus it's the Millennium Dome! Check theo2.co.uk for gigs.

DAILY BUDGET: $100

EAT
Fifteen

Fifteen was the TV brainchild of celebrity chef Jamie Oliver who wanted to give jobless kids a chance to shine in the kitchen. Don't let that put you off — it's genuinely excellent. fifteen.net

STAY
Ten Manchester Street Hotel

Fabulously chic hotel right in the heart of London but tucked away on a quiet street. Cigar smoking actively encouraged! tenmanchesterstreethotel.com

GO
Lovebox

London's coolest festival. This year it's Roxy Music, Dizzee Rascal and Grace Jones — but it's not the bands it's the vibe. Chilled, metropolitan, self-aware — this is London at play. July 16-18. lovebox.net.

DAILY BUDGET: $500

EAT
Gordon Ramsay at Claridges

Classic upmarket British hotel and restaurant. Superb food, almost magical service, and jaw-dropping wine list. claridges.co.uk.

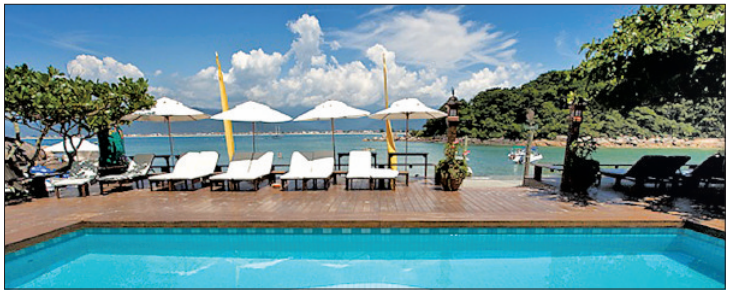
STAY
The Dorchester

Shockingly plush and indulgent. The Dorchester is a magnet for celebrities and billionaires. thedorchester.com

GO
Luxury Shopping

Because its some of the best shopping in the world. Jimmy Choo, Gucci, and Armani for the ladies or an "English cut" handmade suit for the gents. Pure style. anderson-sheppard.co.uk.

PAUL BALDWIN
/METRO WORLD NEWS



A pool in the Ilha do Papagaio in Brazil. Most of the island area is rare Atlantic rainforest.

Island paradise

MAURICIO XAVIER
Metro World News

If you find selecting a hotel a real headache then the paradise island of Papagaio is your dream holiday — it only has one!

The entire island, off the coast of southern Brazil, has been owned by the Senh family since 1971, but the hotel was only opened in 1992 when the travelling publics started to arrive.

Papagaio is in Palhoça, 30 kilometres from the island of Santa Catarina, where most of Florianópolis, the capital of Santa Catarina State, is located.

To get there you'll need to go to Ponta do Papagaio then take a boat to the island. A bit of a chore yes, but 100 per cent worth it for a taste of the unspoiled natural beauty of Papagaio.

About 80 per cent of the Papagaio island area is rare Atlantic rainforest that is environmentally preserved and protected. And because of this it has some of the most exhilarating hiking in the world. Seven trails criss-cross the island and you'll find yourself enveloped by pristine untouched nature in the raw.

Boat excursions are the only other way to get to know the place and its nearby islands: dos Corais, do Campeche and Moleques do Sul e Três Irmãs.

The beaches are known for their clear waters and a range of aquatic sports, such as diving, wakeboard, water ski, kayak and fishing.

Accommodation

- Atay, from $250/night. The hotel has 21 chalets with views to the Baia da Pinheira.

METRO WORLD NEWS

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Eco-tourism at its best
Blue Horizons Garden Resort (GrenadaBlueHorizons.com) offers an ideal location for travelers interested in eco-tourism as it is home to more than 21 species of native birds and 49 species moths that inhabit the six-and-a-quarter acre property. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Bath attracts visitors from across the globe

ROMINA MCGINNESS
Metro World News

WHERE TO WAKE UP
Royal Crescent
royalcrescent.co.uk
A lavish hotel bang in the centre of the famous Royal Crescent. Silk drapes, four poster beds and marble tubs … the place is simply exquisite. The entire façade gives on to the luscious green Victoria Park, which is perfect for a morning promenade.

SPEND THE MORNING
Fashion Shopping
Bath's reputation as the West Country's fashion hub has people flocking in from bigger cities including London and Bristol. The Frock Exchange (10 Kingsmead Square) is a treasure trove of Yves Saint Laurent, Chanel and Mulberry belts, scarves, dresses, sunglasses and handbags.

WHERE TO LUNCH
Vertinsky Café
5 Princess Buildings, George St.
Idyllic (and handy) location on George Street, towards the 'top end' of town makes Adventure Cafe a must-stop-spot. Try a colossal vanilla milkshake or fresh mint Mojito or a goat's cheese focaccia. A great barbecue spot when the weather allows.

SPEND THE AFTERNOON
The Bath
Built by the Romans in AD 75 and dedicated to the goddess Sulis Minerva, the Baths are amongst the best preserved in the world. The Pump Rooms serves the hot water from the natural spring as a drink. Head down town for an afternoon of pampering at Thermae Bath Spa.

WHERE TO DINE
Hudson Steakhouse
hudsonbars.co.uk
Hudson's succulent steak is sourced from a nearby farm. For vegetarians, the risotto cakes with parmesan are delicious. The downstairs bar is perfect for sipping cocktails as you wait for your table to be set in the main restaurant area upstairs.

SPEND THE NIGHT
Theatre Royal
theatreroyal.org.uk
The Royal is more than 200 years old and one of the most influential venues for performing arts in the country. Seat yourself in one of the plush chairs as you enjoy a classic piece of theatre. Plays can be anything from Shakespeare to cutting edge drama.

METRO WORLD NEWS PHOTOS
Royal Crescent offers an exquisite façade, including Victoria Park.

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**Price based on quad occupancy (3 adults and 1 child age 3–9). Total package price starts at US$1,509.
***Price based on quad occupancy (3 adults and 1 child age 3–9). Total package price starts at US$1,074. Blockout Dates and other restrictions apply.

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Star Wars the sitcom
Star Wars is coming to TV as an animated comedy series. Lucasfilm says the sitcom will explore the comic aspects of that "galaxy far, far away" as it playfully and irreverently confronts the saga's characters and mythology. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Entertainment

Graphic Ryan
Ryan Reynolds has reportedly signed on to R.I.P.D., a Universal Pictures movie based on the Peter Lenkov graphic novel.
EW.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

When Date Night goes bad

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Of all the successful Canadians in Hollywood, the name Shawn Levy is not as popularized as it should be.

After all, the Montreal-born filmmaker has made some of today's most successful family comedies (The Night at the Museum films for instance) and his work has generated over $1.5 billion worldwide.

Date Night opens Friday

Now with Date Night, the big-name filmmaker is hoping to gain a greater reputation with a more adult-oriented comedy and quite frankly, not everyone is happy about it.

"It's my first non-family film," said Levy during a recent interview. "(And) my own daughters — I have three — feel betrayed that I've made a movie that they can't see … they've watched Cheaper by the Dozen 9,000 times!"

Still, the Levy clan shouldn't be discouraged. With Date Night, Levy has crafted a very funny movie by matching two of comedy's top actors — Steve Carell and Tina Fey — as a bored married couple that go out on their weekly "date night" and end up being chased by crooked cops and the mafia.

"I had a feeling that whoever put them (together) in a movie first was going to reap the benefits," said Levy. "But as a married couple especially feels so organic. They may be married to other people (in real life) but you sure buy them on-screen as a married couple … the style and tone of their comedy is so well-matched."

Tiny Fey, Steve Carell and Mark Wahlberg in a scene from the new movie Date Night.

But as Levy insists, Date Night is not just a comedy. It delves into the world of action with plenty of breakins, shoot-outs and a bizarre car chase that involved hooking two cars front bumper-to-front bumper.

"No one has seen a Siamese car chase through Manhattan," noted Levy. "I think the goal was to make it really, really funny but to also try and make it relatable to grown-ups in relationships … and then where there is action, frankly to do action like we haven't seen before."

Although Date Night should expose Levy to a distinctly older audience, the filmmaker's refusal to be pegged down is illustrated by the variety of future projects he has in production — including a Steven Spielberg-produced blockbuster called Real Steel.

"While I'm certainly going to do more big tent-pole movies, I'm also developing (intimate) character pieces," said Levy.

"So I'm just getting warmed up."

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Houston postpones Paris concert

On doctor's orders, singer Whitney Houston had to postpone her scheduled concert yesterday in Paris, France, at the Omnisport Bercy due to an "upper respiratory infection" her publicist said. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Move over Hannah Montana

Two new tweens are hitting the small screen

Get ready to meet Brigit Mendler and Victoria Justice, the two biggest stars the world has never heard of — at least that segment of the planet that excludes anyone outside the ages of eight to 14.

Brigit Mendler

But among that increasingly coveted tween demographic — the one that made superstars of Miley Cyrus and Zac Efron — Justice and Mendler's career arcs have been steadily rising for years.

Mendler was the cute vampire who dated David Henrie's socially inept wizard on Wizards of Waverly Place, while Justice was the equally cute upstart rival to Jamie Lynn Spears on zone 101.

Now the two 17-year-olds are getting their own Sunday night sitcoms, Justice in Victorious, which debuts at 8 p.m. EDY this weekend, and mendole in Good Luck Charlie, which debuted last weekend and airs at 8:30 p.m.

Mendler character on Good Luck Charlie is determined to videotape every significant event in the life of her newborn sister, Charlie, while at the same time juggling typical teen problems such as annoying brothers, overly protective parents and flaky boyfriends.

Meanwhile, Victorious puts Justice in a performing arts high school whose wacky student body (populated by several young Broadway theatre veterans) is capable of breaking into song and dance whenever the mood strikes.

The show's creator, Dan Schneider, says he began grooming the actress for just such a breakout role the moment he saw her audition to play second banana to Spears on zone 101 nearly five years ago.

At rival Disney, the feeling was the same when a 14-year-old mendole arrived to audition for Sonny With a Chance. The role would go to another tween idol, Demi Lovato, but mendole wouldn't go unnoticed.

There seems to be a wealth of TV tween stars at the moment, raising the question: Is there room for two more?

The Jonas Brothers have their own eponymous show, Miranda Cosgrove has become nearly a household name on iCarly, as has Selena Gomez on Wizards of Waverly Place — their images plastered all over TV, on lunch boxes, backpacks and buses.

.But that doesn't mean networks like Disney and Nickelodeon can stop cranking out new kid stars. After all, they grow up, as Miley Cyrus, who's in her last year of Hannah Montana, is quickly doing.

Some of them also cause embarrassment, as Spears did when she announced she was pregnant as the fourth season of zone 101 was beginning. Or when a nude photo of Vanessa Hudgens surfaced on the Internet when she was starring opposite Efron in the High School Musical movies.

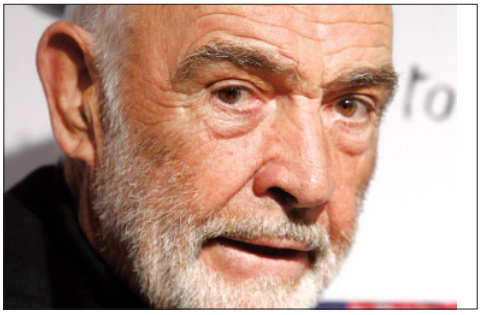
To prepare them, Disney puts them through something it calls Talent 101 which includes a seminar advising them on security precautions they might take and how to behave in public and in front of the press.

But looming stardom doesn't seem to have had much of an impact so far on Mendole, who can appear self-assured beyond her years one moment, while discussing something like acting, then revert to a wide-eyed innocence when talking about getting her driver's license.

Likewise, Justice remains sanguine. Yes, she acknowledges, carrying a TV show is a big responsibility. But, hey, she's had other challenges in her life.

"I graduated high school!," she shrieks with delight. Then she raises her arms and adds, "YAAAY!"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Sean Connery at his show in New York, April 5, 2010.

Sean Connery's Dressed to Kilt in New York

MANHATTAN Sean Connery celebrated Scotland's eclectic style with a fashion show featuring celebrities, athletes and wounded war veterans in modernized kilts, capes and beanies from top Scottish designers.

Connery said Monday's seventh annual Dressed to Kilt, "certainly brings together a very interesting mix of people."

Mike Myers, donning a kilt, argyle socks and sneakers, was first on the catwalk at the Chelsea nightclub space. Al Roker was close behind in a longer kilt, paired with bright yellow socks.

Joan Jett was a crowd-pleaser in her door-knocker bra top, patent-leather trench coat, micro-mini kilt and an outrageous feather headpiece by William Chambers, and Kelly Bensimon and Kellie Pickler each wore tiny corset dresses.

Scottish export Alan Cumming wore an all-matching plaid three-piece kilt suit, and actors Kyle MacLachlan and Sam Waterston also appeared comfy in their kilts. Speed skater Shani Davis accessorized with his Olympic gold medal.

But while there was a thoroughly festive atmosphere on stage, the mood became respectful when veterans from the Wounded Warrior Project appeared as models.

The fashion show raises money for Friends of Scotland, a non-profit founded by Connery. Proceeds were to be split by between Wounded Warriors, the Paralyzed Veterans of America and the Scottish equivalent group, the Erksine Hospital.

A pop-up shop on Madison Avenue selling some of the items from Dressed to Kilt will be open through April 13.

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VH1 seeks more diverse audience

Cable network to feature more racially progressive reality programs

On her new VH1 reality dating show, Rozonda Thomas — better known as Chilli from the groundbreaking hip-hop group TLC — doesn't lounge in bubble baths or hand out fake bling to her suitors. Instead, the 39-year-old singer and mother meets bachelors at black-tie affairs and confers with a dating expert, as well as her 12-year-old son.

AP PHOTO/VH1/PRESCOTT MCDONALD

In this publicity image for VH1's Basketball Wives from left, Jennifer Williams, Royce Reed, Erikka Moxam, Shaunie O'Neal, Evelyn Lozada, Suzie Ketchem and Gloria Govan pose together.

The cable network, synonymous with Flavor of Love and its sleazy spin-offs, is trading trampiness for fabulousness with a new slate of series starring seemingly well-adjusted rich and famous black Americans.

VH1 executive vice-president Jeff Olde admits that the shift from oh-no-they-didn't fare to more mature material is totally intentional.

"We constantly have to evolve and tell our audience different stories," he says. "I love that we've been able to get more diverse with our audience by — in large part — attracting African-American women to the network. We got them in the door with some shows, and now I'm excited about where we're going and how we're telling them different kinds of stories."

With a Sunday debut, What Chilli Wants will be partnered othat night with Brandy & Ray J: A Family Business, focusing on sibling R&B singers Ray J and Brandy Norwood as they attempt to relaunch their music careers, and Basketball Wives, starring Shaquille O'Neal's ex-wife, Shaunie O'Neal, and five other women with romantic links to basketball players.

For the notoriously trashy VH1, it's not reality as usual. While cat fights will flare up with the Basketball Wives and Chilli promises a tiff with her sassy matchmaker on What Chilli Wants, these new shows certainly aren't selling buzzworthy moments akin to Flavor of Love contestants spiting on each other or suddenly defecating on the floor.

"I watched Flavour of Love myself," attests Chilli. "It was definitely one of the shows I thought was interesting, but it made sense for Flav to do it just that way. For me, I wanted to do my show in a way that I would be comfortable with, and I was very happy that VH1 was on the same page with me."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
4/7/10	267	351 -	ACCESS	Alberta Primetime (Live)		The Listener		America's Next Top Model (N)		Law & Order: SVU		Primetime
	243	317 3	CFCN	etalk	Access H.	CSI: NY (HDTV) (N)		Criminal Minds (N)		American Idol (HDTV)		CTV News
	-	- 4	OMNI	King	The Simpsons	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Metropia
	-	371 5	KXLY	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Modern Family	The Middle	Modern Family	Cougar Town	Ugly Betty (N)
primetime	245	306 6	CBRT	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dragons' Den (HDTV)		Republic of Doyle (DVS)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	244	338 7	CICT	ET Canada	Entertainment	Melrose Place (N)		Bones (HDTV PA) (N)		Kitchen Nightmares (PA)		News Hour
	246	- 8	CKAL	Law & Order: Special Victims		Ugly Betty (HDTV) (N)		Minute to Win It (N)		Modern Family	Cougar Town	EP Daily
	119	705 9	CBXFT	Virginie (SC)	L'Épicerie	Comme par magie (N) (SC)		Tous pour un (HDTV) (N) (SC)		Le Téléjournal Nouvelles. (SC)		TJ Alberta
	-	- 10	SHAW	(6) Local Programming						Local Programming		
	-	372 12	KREM	News	Access H.	The Doctors		Old Christine	Accidentally	Criminal Minds (N)		CSI: NY
	-	374 14	KSPS	PBS NewsHour (N)		Not in God's Name (HDTV)		The Buddha (HDTV) Life of the Buddha. (N) (DVS)				Independent
	502	390 15	CBC	CBC News: The National		Mexico's Drug War		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		Drug War
	-	370 16	KHQ	News (N)	Millionaire	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel Fortune	Minute to Win It (N)		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order
	-	373 22	KAYU	The Office	Raymond	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Human Target "Victoria"		American Idol (HDTV)		News
	297	652 37	WPIX	Fly Girls	High Society	PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men	Friends	Friends	According/Jim	Family Guy
news	500	500 29	CNN	Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV) (N)				Larry King Live		Cooper 360
	508	502 31	CNN2	The Joy Behar Show		Nancy Grace		Showbiz Tonight		The Joy Behar Show		Nancy Grace
sports	400	400 21	TSN	NHL Hockey	SportsCentre		That's Hockey!	SportsCentre	Off the Record	Boxing		Boxing
	408	418 27	net	Oilers Conn	NHL Hockey Colorado Avalanche at Edmonton Oilers. (HDTV) (Live)					Sportsnet Connected (N)		Telus Oilers
	410	403 30	SCORE	Court Surfing NBA news, scores and highlights.			NBA Basketball San Antonio Spurs at Phoenix Suns. (Live)					Score Now
family	411	457 44	OLN	Oper. Repo	Oper. Repo	Ghost Hunters Academy		Destination Truth		Oper. Repo	Oper. Repo	Ghost Hunters
	417	406 48	SPEED	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)		Pass Time (N)	Pass Time (N)	Pass Time	NASCAR Hub	Racing Chef	NASCAR	Drives
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	521	560 24	TLC	Hoarding: Buried Alive		Addicted Heroin addict.		Hoarding: Buried Alive		Addicted Heroin addict.		TV Murders
	603	561 25	FOOD	Iron Chef America		Chopped		Restaurant Makeover		Diner, Drive-In	Unwrapped	Chopped
	615	520 26	A&E	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Exterminator	Exterminator	Exterminator	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter
	617	522 32	SHOW	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	Relic Hunter		*You Lucky Dog* (1998, Comedy) Kirk Cameron.				HawthoRNe
	601	562 33	SLICE	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	ET Canada	Whatever	Real Housewives, Orange		Housewives
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	620	523 36	BRAVO	Wingfield	Star Portraits	White Collar "Threads"		Law & Order "Thrill"		Without a Trace		White Collar
	294	650 40	WPCH	MLB Baseball: Cubs at Braves		Seinfeld	Name Is Earl	Law & Order: Special Victims		Family Guy	Family Guy	*Corrina, Cor.*
	626	547 41	COM	Just for Laughs		Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Lucky Louie
	-	539 42	TCM	*Black Swan*	*The Spanish Main* (1945, Adventure)			(9:15) *Captain Blood* ★★★ (1935, Adventure) Errol Flynn.				
	628	584 43	SPIKE	UFC Unleashed (N)		The Ultimate Fighter (N)		Jail (N)	The Ultimate Fighter (HDTV)		Jail	CSI: Crime Scn
	522	516 45	HIST	Dive Detectives (N)		Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Nostradamus Effect		Ice Road Truckers (HDTV) (N)		Ice Pilots NWT
	627	528 46	SPACE	Chuck (HDTV) (N)		Supernatural (HDTV) (N)		InnerSpace (N)	Stargate SG-1		Star Trek: Next Generation	
	-	- 47	AMC	*Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life*			*Cutthroat Island* ★★ (1995, Adventure) Geena Davis, Matthew Modine.					Storymakers
	619	525 49	TROP	Project Runway Canada		Dog Whisperer		Hoarders "Linda; Todd"		Hoarders "Jake; Shirley"		Parking Wars
	600	564 50	HGTV	Property Virgin	Unsellables	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes on Homes		Agent-Agent	Property Shop	Property Virgin
	501	391 52	CTV	CTV News Tonight		CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News
	504	508 70	BNN	Squeeze Play		Business News	Commodities	Market Call Tonight		Headline	Commodities	Squeeze Play
	526	507 92	VIVA	Medium		Cold Case "Glory Days"		Mediums	Ghostly Enc.	Judging Amy		Missing
	269	350 93	APTN	Investigates	Passage John Rae.		Down2Earth	Mighty River	Canadian Geographic		Venturing Frth	Storytellers
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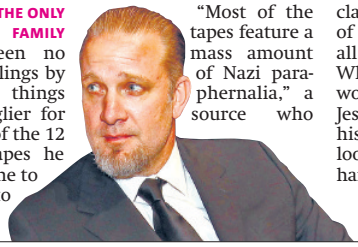
	581	566 102	MTV	The Real World		The Challenge	Diary (N)	MTV Live	Sex, News-Roll	My Life as Liz	My Life as Liz	The Challenge
	-	- 116	TV5	(6) *Mon Colonel* (2006)		J'y suis, j'y	A Table	TV5 Le Journal	(9:35) Thalassa Un magazine de la mer.			

It smells like cats, Hagen Daaz, a hint of bitterness, and torn up Angelina Jolie photos
Jennifer Aniston is sniffing the sweet smell of success — she's preparing to launch her debut fragrance. She is fulfilling a long-time dream by creating her own signature scent, femalefirst.co.uk reports. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Celebrity Buzz

Springtime for Hitler at the James household?

GUESS SANDRA ISN'T THE ONLY FILM STAR IN THE FAMILY While there's been no word on divorce filings by Sandra Bullock, things could get even uglier for Jesse James if any of the 12 homemade sex tapes he allegedly made come to light, according to Radar Online.

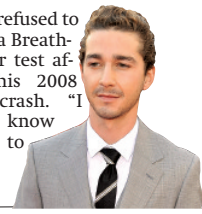


"Most of the tapes feature a mass amount of Nazi paraphernalia," a source who claims to have seen some of the material says. "It's all really quite disturbing. What I saw was a naked woman on her knees and Jesse in a Nazi hat waving his arm in a salute. It looked like the woman's hands were bound."

METRO WORLD NEWS

LaBeouf admits to problems with alcohol

ADMITTING IS THE FIRST STEP. NOW, RESPONSIBILITY ... HE'LL GET BACK TO YOU ON THAT Shia LaBeouf admits he's had a difficult time with alcohol in the past, according to FHM magazine. "When I drink, I get crazy," says the Transformers star, who refused to take a Breathalyzer test after his 2008 car crash. "I don't know how to compose myself." But LaBeouf says he's got his alcohol issues under control, though — for now at least. "I don't drink anymore, right now," he says. "But that's just today."



METRO WORLD NEWS

Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

JEREMY PIVEN waxes profound (not really), **JOSH GROBAN** isn't much to look at, **JONATHAN ROSS** is thinking about the future, and **JESSICA ALBA** is putting out quite a spread.

@jeremypiven Sexy can become beautiful and beautiful can become hideous.
@joshgroban A lone paparazzi got me and my dog (again) today. Bless. I said "really exciting stuff, guy. Great job". A paycheck, my photo is not.
@wossy Just read Asimov science fiction mag. It occurs to me to ask, how long before we stop calling 'email' emails, and start calling them mail?
@jessicaalba I'm making family Sat. brunch — Chicken/Cheese Enchiladas, Guacamole, Beans, Rice and Banana Cream Pie for dessert.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Arrivederci for Clooney's Italian love interest: Report

BACK TO THE HOT, VACANT BRUNETTE ASSEMBLY LINE FOR GEORGIE George Clooney has reportedly called it quits with his Italian girlfriend, Elisabetta Canalis, according to Grazia magazine. Sources say Clooney ended the nine-month relationship because he wasn't a fan of Canalis' party-going ways.

"George loved her, but didn't want that lifestyle," a source tells the magazine. "They'd been on the rocks since February, but held on to make it through awards season. They decided to go to the Oscars ceremony in L.A. together, but they didn't attend any showbiz after-parties together. George jetted straight out to Hawaii on his own for a few days later." "

METRO WORLD NEWS

Tom urges Katie to pack on the pounds

BECAUSE XENU FETUSES CAN'T THRIVE IN TIGHT, ENCLOSED SPACES Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes are reportedly ready for a second child, and to get ready for another pregnancy, Holmes is packing on the pounds, according to Now magazine. "Katie's been gorging on loads of carbs and she's put on at least 12 pounds," a source says. "She hates the fact that she's heavier, but Tom insisted that she needed more meat on her bones to have a greater chance of getting pregnant."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Ex-Housewife sues series creator

HEY — PAYCHECKS DON'T GROW ON TREES. RIGHT? ANYONE? Nicolette Sheridan apparently isn't thrilled with how things ended for her on Desperate Housewives, as she's now suing series creator Marc Cherry for $20 million US over allegations of assault, gender violence and wrongful termination, according to Hollyscoop.

Sheridan claims that Cherry was abusive to her on set, going so far as to hit her on the head and face over a script dispute. The suit alleges that her character on the series was killed off because the actress complained about his behavior.

"The decision to kill off Sheridan's character demonstrates that Cherry and ABC intended to and did retaliate against Sheridan for her complaints about Cherry," according to the lawsuit.

So far, Sheridan's former castmates haven't commented on what they think about the lawsuit, but then again they still have contracts.

METRO WORLD NEWS

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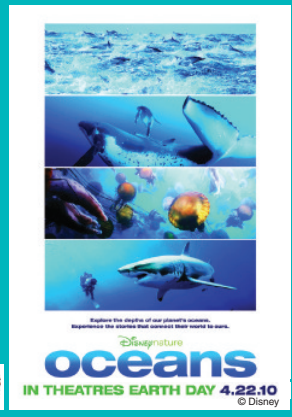

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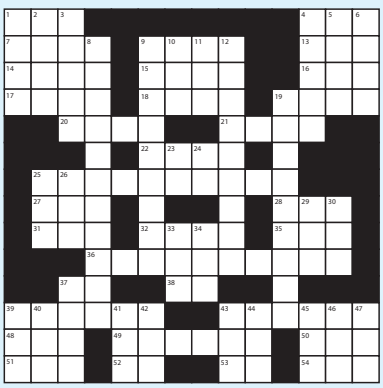

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8 Number crunchers
9 Varying
10 World Cup locale
11 Will Smith biopic
12 Well-mannered fellows
19 Like a cheque
23 Anglo-Saxon abbr.
24 Radio Frequency
25 _____ tai
26 Limb
29 60s English style
30 Before
33 Help
34 Cow sound
37 Truth
39 Offer
40 Solo
41 Hitch
42 NBC variety show
43 In the past
44 Homer term
45 Sun. predecessor
46 Possess
47 Web

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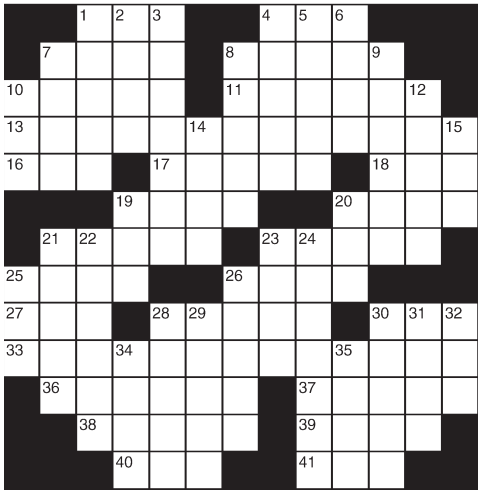
BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

Today Mostly Sunny 14 C / -2 C
Thursday Mostly Sunny 16 C / 1 C
Friday Mostly Sunny 7 C / -2 C

Take Five

Andrew Schultz, Meteorologist – Breakfast Television
"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta."
WEEKDAYS AT 6 A.M.



ACROSS

1 — Mahal
4 Mail sorting ctr.
7 Calming exercise
8 Jim Morrison's band, with "The"
10 Shaped like a dunce cap
11 Mistakes in print
13 Tumbler
16 Moment
17 Actress Parker
18 Pi follower
19 Sound quality
20 Squared
21 Suggestions
23 Compare
25 Treaty
26 City of Seven Hills
27 "Hail!"
28 Figure of speech
30 — constrictor
33 Tumbler
36 Dog
37 Sarah Palin book, "Going —"
38 Propels a gondola
39 Quite some time
40 Tournament situation
41 Parcel of land

DOWN

1 Gin partner
2 Not "fer"
3 Big win in Vegas
4 Ravine
5 "— and Bess"
6 Exam format
7 Olden days
8 Thick
9 Famish
10 LPs' successors
12 Wan
14 Charged particles
15 Trinity member
19 Stick with a kick
20 — out a living
21 Widespread destruction
22 Greenland sight
23 Aerobatic maneuver
24 Sinful
25 Chum
26 Singer LeAnn
28 With unfriendliness
29 Recipient
30 Sire
31 Responsibility
32 Corroded
34 Door handle
35 Scrubbed, NASA-style

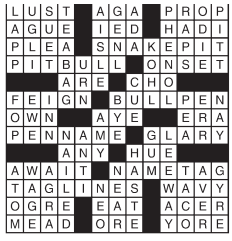
Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

		4					9	
5	7						4	2
		2	9			1	3	
7				1	3		2	
				8				
	9		2	5				6
	4	8			5	2		
6	3						1	7
	2					8		

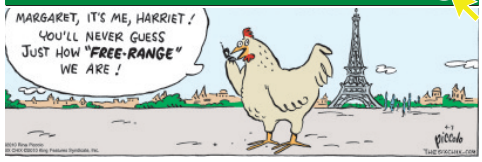
PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



8	3	2	4	6	5	9	7	1
6	9	1	3	7	2	5	8	4
4	5	7	9	1	8	2	3	6
2	8	5	6	9	3	1	4	7
7	1	9	8	5	4	3	6	2
3	4	6	1	2	7	8	9	5
1	2	3	7	8	6	4	5	9
5	7	8	2	4	9	6	1	3
9	6	4	5	3	1	7	2	8

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca



Metro Recipe of the Day

Chicken and Shrimp Jambalaya

INGREDIENTS:

100 g chorizo sausage, cut into small chunks
300 g skinless chicken breast fillets, cut into bite-sized pieces
2 cups long-grain rice
4 cups hot chicken or vegetable stock
1 bay leaf
200 g bottle tomato salsa
200 g raw, peeled tiger jumbo shrimp
3 tbsp chopped fresh parsley

METHOD:

1. Heat large, deep frying pan over medium heat. Add chorizo and fry until just starting to brown. Remove with slotted spoon and set aside. Add chicken to chorizo oil and cook 1-2 minutes, stirring until lightly coloured. Remove and set aside.
2. Add rice to pan and cook, stirring, 1 minute. Pour in hot stock and add bay leaf. Reduce heat, then cover pan with lid or foil and simmer gently 5 minutes.
3. Stir chorizo and chicken into rice. Cover pan and simmer 10 minutes. Stir in salsa, jumbo shrimp and parsley, and cook 3-4 minutes or until jumbo shrimp are just cooked, most of liquid has been absorbed and rice is tender.
4. Remove bay leaf, then season; serve immediately.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

sallybrompton.com For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Some serious matters need to be dealt with and people are looking to you to take the lead. You'll do it, of course, but don't do all the hard stuff yourself.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Strive for clarity in everything. The more you keep things simple over the next 24 hours the more likely it is you will impress some Very Important People.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Focus on business and money matters today. You may be a long way behind in your financial affairs but you can easily catch up if you make an effort.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Say what you think and don't worry that some people might get angry. Life is too short. the only emotions you have control over are your own.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Pluto will stop you in your tracks today and demand answers to some serious questions. It may mean having second thoughts about something.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
There is a huge opportunity just waiting to be taken advantage of, but you can't seem to find the energy to get started. Maybe you need to question your aims.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Speak up if you disagree with what a friend or family member is proposing. They may not welcome your input now but later on they will thank you for caring.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
After the trials and tribulations of recent weeks it might be wise to find yourself a quiet place where you can get your mind together.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
A sudden change of direction will be forced on you today and it will annoy you that you did not see it coming. Never mind. Life is full of twists and turns.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Accept yourself for who you are and accept others for who they are. That is the message of the stars today and if you heed it you won't go far wrong.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
If nothing else, recent developments will have made you more willing to experiment with new ideas and new ways of doing things.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Seek out people who inspire you and whose ideas are different, even radical. The world is changing at such a pace that you cannot afford to stay where you are.

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This day in history

1868: Thomas D'Arcy McGee, one of the Canadian Fathers of Confederation is assassinated by the Irish, in one of the few Canadian political assassinations, and the only one of a federal politician.
1940: Booker T. Washington becomes the first African American to be depicted on a United States postage stamp.
1948: The World Health Organization is established by the UN.
1985: Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev declares a moratorium on the deployment of middle-range missiles in Europe.
1994: Massacres of Tutsis begin in Kigali, Rwanda.
2003: U.S. troops capture Baghdad; Saddam Hussein's regime falls two days later.

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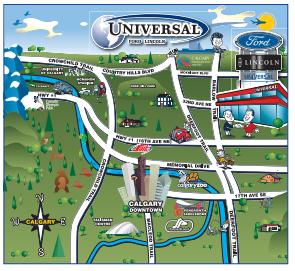

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